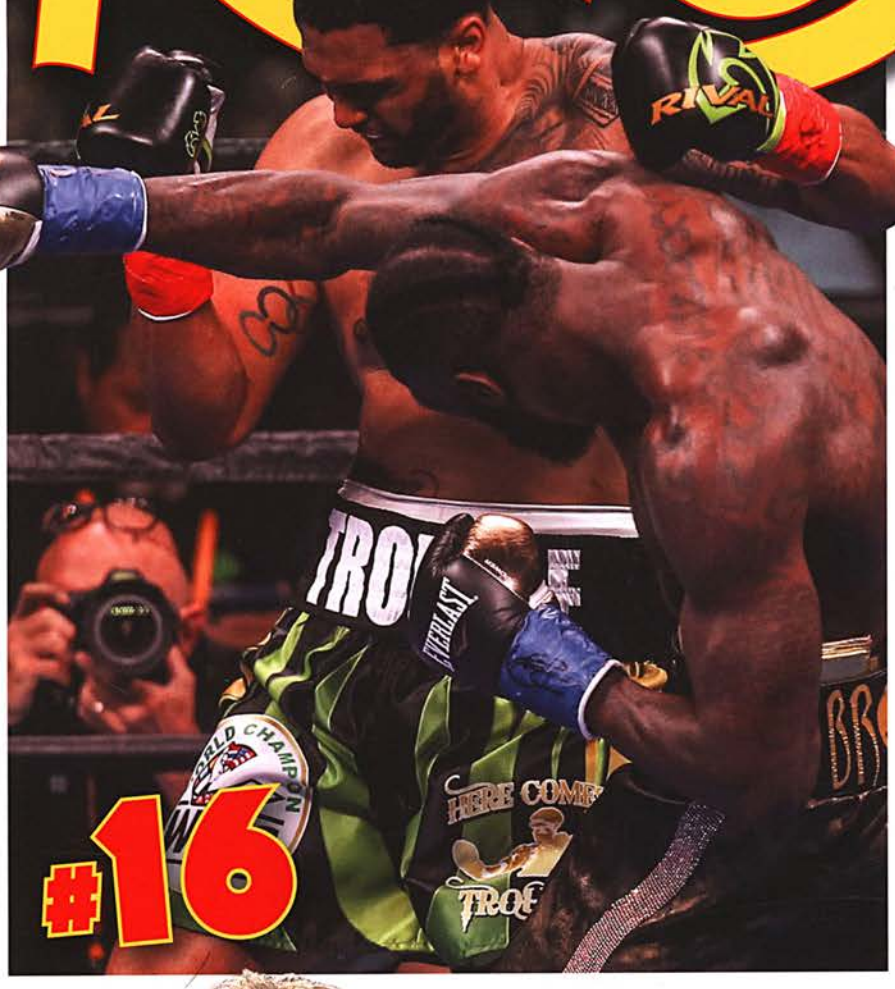
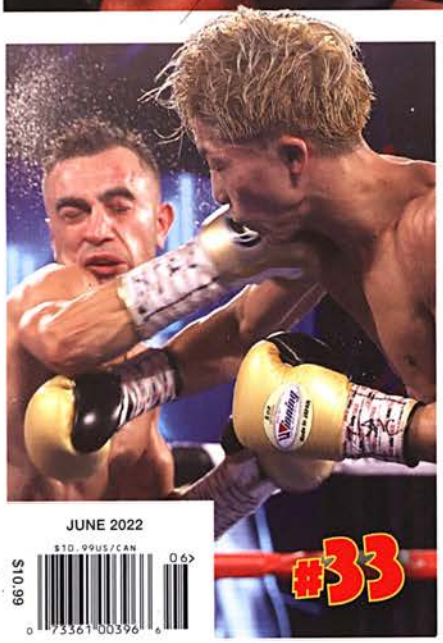
THE BIBLE OF BOXING

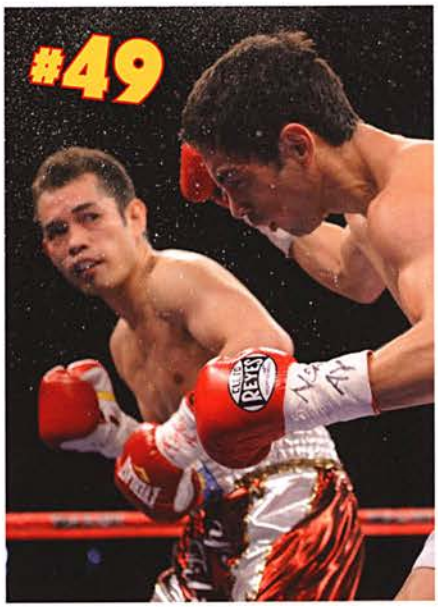
The RING

COLLECTOR'S SPECIAL

THE 100 GREATEST PUNCHERS (OF THE LAST 100 YEARS)







JUNE 2022
$10.99
$10.99US/CAN

NIKE HYPERKO 2

www.athleteps.com

18 THE 100 GREATEST PUNCHERS (OF THE PAST 100 YEARS)
HITTING HARD. IT'S BOXING'S MOST FUNDAMENTAL ART. HERE ARE THE ONES WHO DID (OR DO) IT BEST.

20 PUNCHERS 1-3 By Doug Fischer

26 PUNCHERS 4-5 By Tom Gray

30 PUNCHERS 6-10
By David Greisman

36 THE LEFT HOOKERS

38 PUNCHERS 11-20
By Gareth A Davies

43 PUNCHERS 21-30
By Don Stradley

48 PUNCHERS 31-40
By Thomas Gerbasi

54 THE RIGHT CROSSERS

56 PUNCHERS 41-50
By Ron Borges

61 PUNCHERS 51-60
By Norm Frauenheim

66 THE UPPERCUTTERS

68 PUNCHERS 61-80 By Cliff Rold

74 PUNCHERS 81-100 By Tom Gray

78 THE BODY-SNATCHERS

DEPARTMENTS

4 COME OUT WRITING

7 FOREWARD By Julian Jackson

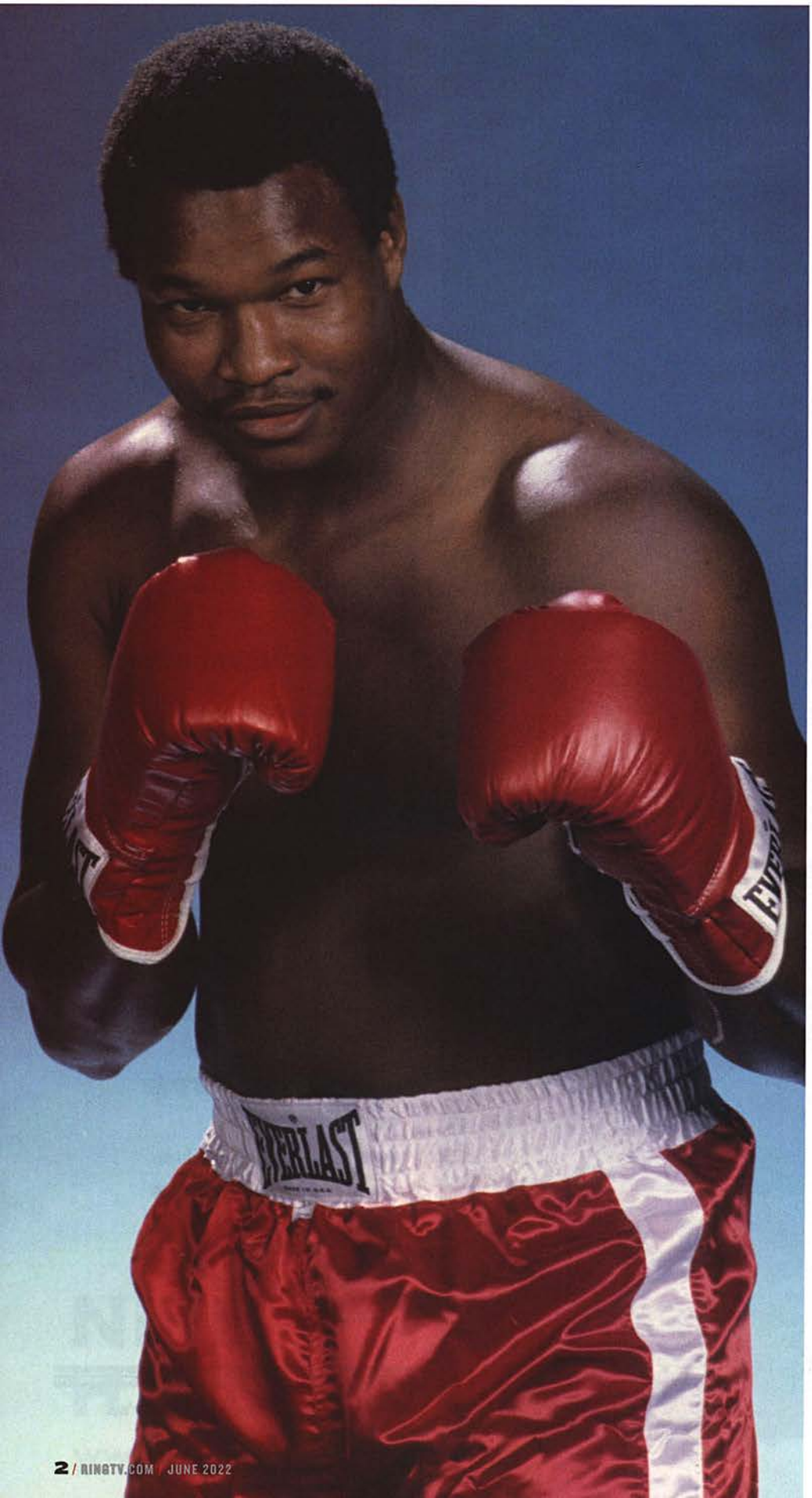
10 JABS AND STRAIGHT WRITES
By Thomas Hauser

14 RING RATINGS PACKAGE

78 FROM THE ARCHIVES

80 COMING UP

Punching power is Deontay Wilder's primary asset.



ZUMA PRESS INC

LARRY'S LEVEL

I'm a 19-year-old boxing fanatic and have been receiving my monthly Ring issue since last March, enjoying every article I can get my hands on. After reading the Larry Holmes dedicated issue (May 2022), it has forced my mind to think about where he ranks amongst all-time greats and the current crop of heavyweights. The question I would like to pose is how much of an importance is it that a fighter has at least 2-3 dance partners during their peak that can elevate them to the next level of greatness? Ali had Frazier and Foreman. Lewis had Tyson and Holyfield. It feels as though Holmes doesn't get the credit or recognition he deserves from people my age (and older generations) because he didn't have standout massive names that he could have fought during his prime.

Ruairi O'Sullivan
Co. Meath, Ireland

MANAGING EDITOR'S RESPONSE: While it's true that Holmes' reign was sandwiched between two heavyweight golden eras – the '70s and the '90s – there's still so much to admire. His WBC title win over Ken Norton is a match for any glamour division battle in history. His remarkable longevity – seven-and-a-half years as champion – stands alongside that of fellow heavyweight greats Joe Louis and Wladimir Klitschko. Memorable title defenses against Tim Witherspoon (for me, the best heavyweight

title fight of the '80s) and Gerry Cooney are standout, but almost every Holmes defense is worth watching. In his prime, he was never out of shape, his performance level was outstanding, and his fighting heart was beyond reproach. Get on YouTube and explore some more Easton Assassin action as soon as you can. Glad you enjoyed the special issue.

It was good to see the Ring produce such a fine tribute to the great Larry Holmes. Larry used to be criminally underrated by the boxing media and by the mainstream press but thankfully he is now recognized as one of the greatest heavyweight champions in history. It is perfectly reasonable to rate Holmes as one of the four finest heavyweights of all time; perhaps only Muhammad Ali would have beaten the the peak Holmes. Larry really was a magnificent fighter. I really love these Ring specials. Any chance of similar editions for ATGs such as Joe Louis, George Foreman and Joe Frazier ?

Gerard Mullarkey
London

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: There is a very good chance that you will see more specials celebrating the lives and careers of boxing's legendary fighters.

Probably a very clear and obvious reason behind it that I have overlooked, but I've noticed Oscar Valdez doesn't feature in the junior lightweight ratings and was a little confused why this was. I also by my reckoning thought he would be in with a shout of making the P4P list. If you could shed some light on this for me, that would be great!

Liam Ball
North Skelton, England

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: Valdez was dropped from the ratings in September 2021 after testing positive for a banned substance prior to his fight against Robson Conceicao, a move covered in the December 2021 issue. He was rated No. 1 at the time.

After years of boring my awesome wife, Jessica, she bought me a subscription to The Ring thinking I would finally shut up! But it somehow made it worse! So here is a gift for you: a 9x12-inch oil paint and pastel called "Fights we might not want to see in 2022."

iamnarcotiks
#artismyaddiction

WRITE TO THE RING! Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 90254, Brooklyn, NY 11209 comeoutwriting@gmail.com
★ Emailed letters will include a writer's email address unless a city and state of origin are provided. Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity.

DI NARDO
TORINO

TAILOR
CRAFTSMAN
CREATOR OF
THE GREATEST
BOXING GLOVES
IN THE WORLD.
100%
HANDMADE IN
ITALY

NOW AVAILABLE
WORLDWIDE

INFO
PHONE: +393930012778
FILIPPO.DINARDO@PROTONMAIL.COM

NSAC CERTIFICATE
NYSAC CERTIFICATE
WBC CERTIFICATE
BBBofC CERTIFICATE

WWW.FILIPPODINARDO.COM -
BOXING EQUIPMENT
WWW.DINARDOBOXING.COM -
SPORTSWEAR

SCORECARDS

Boxing Aficionado™ X RING 100 YEARS

MAIN EVENT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
RED CORNER													
BLUE CORNER													

CO-MAIN EVENT

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
RED CORNER													
BLUE CORNER													

BOXINGAFICIONADO.COM

ALSO AVAILABLE AT RINGMAGSHOP.COM

EST. 1922 The RING 100 YEARS

VOLUME 101, NO. 5 / **JUNE** 2022

FOUNDER
Nathaniel Fleischer (1888-1972)

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Douglass Fischer

SENIOR EDITOR
Brian Harty

MANAGING EDITOR
Tom Gray

CREATIVE DIRECTOR
Lamar Clark

CONTROLLER
Deborah L. Harrison

CIRCULATION DIRECTOR
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

ADVERTISING INQUIRIES
Advertising@sepublications.com
347-497-4297

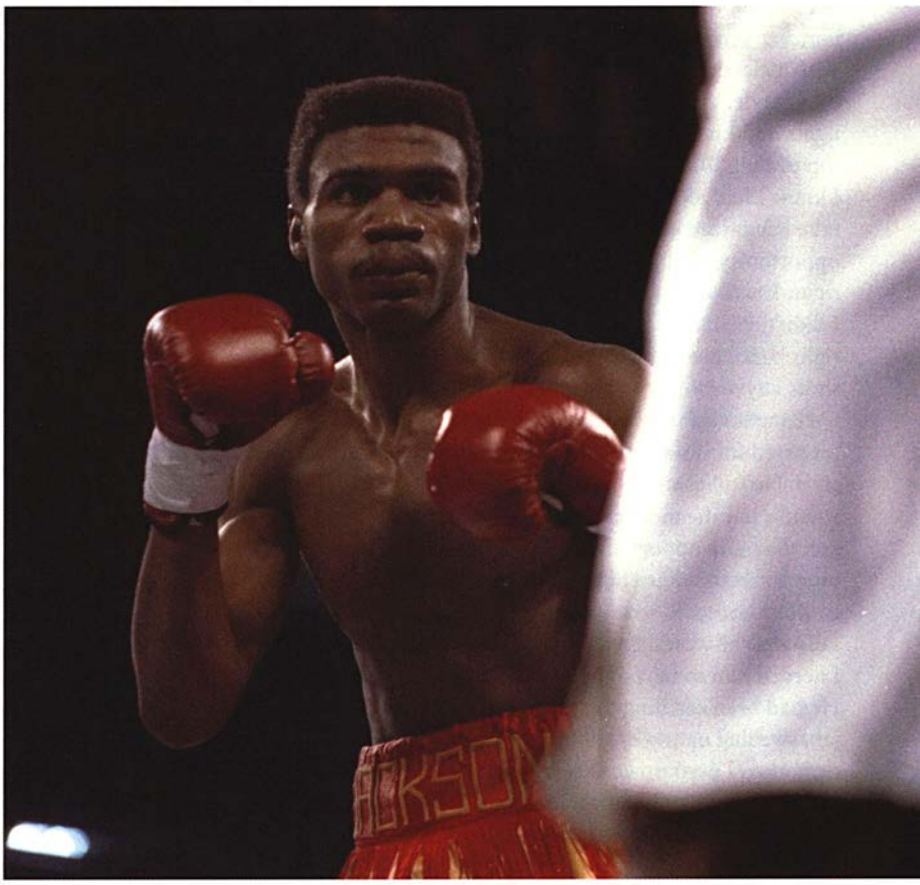
SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES
BACK ISSUES INQUIRIES
DIGITAL ORDERS INQUIRIES
The Ring Magazine
Subscriber Service Dept.
PO Box 16027
North Hollywood, CA 91615-6027
Phone: 818-286-3101
rngcs@magserv.com

SEND EDITORIAL COMMENTS TO:
comeoutwriting@gmail.com
or P.O. Box 90254
Brooklyn, NY 11209

THE RING (ISSN: 0035-5410), Vol. 101, NO. 5 (JUNE 2022), is published 12 times per year by Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC, P.O. Box 90254 Brooklyn, NY 11209. Periodicals postage paid at Brooklyn, NY 11209 and additional post offices. Postmasters: Send change of address notices to: The Ring Magazine Subscriber Service Dept., PO Box 16027, North Hollywood, CA 91615-6027, Phone: 818-286-3101; rngcs@magserv.com. Single copy price $8.95 in U.S.A. and Canada (£5.99 in the U.K.). Subscription price U.S. and possession $39.99 for 12 issues including Canada. Mexico add $5. All remaining countries add $10 for 12 issues per year. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage. The entire contents of this magazine are copyright ©2020 Sports and Entertainment Publications, LLC. No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Publisher is not responsible for the accuracy of the content of advertisements appearing in this magazine, nor the delivery or quality of merchandise or services offered. No endorsement of any such advertisement is intended or implied. Advertisers and agencies assume liability for claims arising from the content of their advertisements. FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: advertising@sepublications.com. U.S. / Canadian and International distribution by Comag Marketing Group LLC, 155 Village Blvd #200, Princeton, NJ 08540. UK distribution by Seymour Distribution Ltd., 2 East Poultry Avenue, London, England, EC1A 9PT. Printed In U.S.A.

FOREWORD BY **JULIAN JACKSON**

GREAT PUNCHERS ARE GREAT FIGHTERS



The Hawk was one of the most devastating knockout artists in boxing history.

I want to thank the editors of The Ring for ranking me among the best punchers of the last 100 years.

I'm honored to be in the top 10. Without seeing the other names, I already know that I'm in the company of all-time great fighters.

Great punchers are great fighters. They don't always get credit for being great fighters, but to be a great puncher, one has to have a lot of boxing ability.

My career is proof of that even though my skills were overlooked when I was fighting.

It's like that with most KO artists because the ability to punch often hides a fighter's ability to box. Everybody loves the knockout, but people look past *how* the fighter is able to knock out his opponent. It doesn't just happen. Your timing has to be on point. You have to be a split second ahead of your opponent. That's often the difference between a punch that lands and a punch that ends the fight.

With me, everybody remembered the knockout punch because it was usually sensational. I could tell when I hit a fighter if it was over or if it took three or four rounds out of him and it was time to step up my pressure.

When I landed the shot I was looking for, I felt it, like a shockwave going up to my elbow, and I knew that was it. He was not going to get up.

It was that way with Terry Norris.

Being on the receiving end of Jackson's punching power was not a pleasant experience for Dennis Milton, who lost their 1991 middleweight title bout by first-round knockout.

And Buster Drayton. And Herol Graham. And many others.

But most people missed the setup for the punch that ended those fights.

I got to Norris because I had studied him. He was a cocky up-and-comer with a classic American stick-and-move style. We looked at tapes of his fights and knew we had to stay on top of him. When he made a mistake, I knew I had to be in position to take advantage of it. When I saw my opportunity, I caught him flush with a right. It was over as soon as I landed. I didn't need a follow-up hook and right hand, but I got him with those shots anyway.

I caught Graham because I was well-prepared for his awkward southpaw style. He still gave me trouble for three rounds, but the more confident he got, the more opportunities I had. The moment before I got him, I switched from orthodox to southpaw. I knew if I did that he would come right where I needed him to be, on the left side. He had been catching me with his jab, swelling up my eye, while I boxed orthodox. I used to work out and spar as a southpaw, so I knew I still had the same ability to punch as a lefty. I made the switch with Graham and caught him cold with a right hook.

People see knockouts like that and say, "Julian Jackson is a special puncher."

But I always felt that my timing was special. I didn't care how fast you were or how well you moved. I was trained to time my opponent and react at the right moment.

Most knockout punchers have that ability to figure out their opponents' styles, anticipate their moves and look for the mistakes. That's when the puncher strikes. Most of the time, the knockout punch is a punch the opponent doesn't see coming.

They say speed kills, but knockouts come from timing. George Foreman wasn't fast, but he could hit, and his greatest knockouts came from landing his punches at the right time. John "The Beast" Mugabi could hit, but he wasn't fast. He had good timing.

I had excellent timing and I was also a very good combination puncher. So I didn't need to be fast and didn't worry much about fighting fast boxers, because I was sharp. I learned early in my boxing career that being sharp could beat speed.

Believe it or not, I was a boxer before I was a puncher. I didn't realize my punching power until late in my amateur career. We just focused on the basics in the gym, the fundamentals, getting our feet in the right position and our hands in the right place. That's what is most important for boxing and for punching. You have to have the proper form and stance. The mechanics of boxing.

My trainer told me, "Julian, you don't have to worry about punching hard; you have a natural ability to punch." I was told never to *try* to hit hard. It would come naturally. But I realized as a young amateur that putting my body behind the punches, rotating my hips and shoulders, that helps.

The first time I knocked out a fighter was as an amateur. I was sparring a local professional. His fighting name was Kid Flash. My trainer told me that he'd allow me to work with him even though I was 17 or 18. Still a kid. My trainer told me to just get some work in and not try to punch hard. "Just the basics, Julian, two jabs and a right hand," he said. Well, I did that and I caught Kid Flash with the right hand flush and he dropped.

It shocked me. I said, "I'm sorry! I'm sorry!" I ran over there and tried to help him to his feet. I asked him for forgiveness. My trainer later told me, "Hey, knockouts are part of boxing. You don't have to be sorry. It happens. Don't apologize." I'll never forget it. Ever since then, I was given a nickname from a school friend who hung around the gym. He told me, "I'm going to name you The Hawk, because there's going to be a lot of chickens running from the hawk."

The name stuck with me and he was right. Once people saw how I knocked guys out, I had a hard time getting the big fights.

I wasn't as popular as I could have been, because I couldn't get the big names in the ring. I wanted to fight James Toney when he was middleweight champ. I wanted Roy Jones Jr. when he was coming up. I think politics blocked me and Toney. He was with Bob Arum. I was with Don King. So, we tried to get Roy back when he was still with his dad (as trainer and manager). I heard his father said "No way." When we went after the other titleholders, I was always told that their managers said there wasn't enough money for the risk involved.

I really wanted to fight Sugar Ray Leonard. I wanted Leonard so bad. That was a dream of mine because it would have been a game-changer. I thought it might happen after I beat Norris. But Norris got the Leonard fight not long after beating Mugabi (another guy I wanted to fight).

It ticked me off so much that I went to the weigh-in for Leonard-Norris. After Leonard got off the scale, I yelled, "You can't call yourself a champion when you're fighting a guy I beat!" He calmly said, "I hear you, Julian, but you know what? You hit too hard."

So, I guess being a puncher is a blessing and a curse. But it's mostly a blessing, because boxing celebrates knockouts the way baseball celebrates home runs.

I love Muhammad Ali, looked up to him when I was young, but I was drawn to George Foreman. When he fought, we expected him to land that big punch that would change the fight or end the fight. He did not look as fantastic as Ali looked, but he was just as exciting because of the threat of his power. He had the kind of punches that lifted fighters off the mat!

That's what people want to see. We respect the boxer but we love the puncher, the guy who puts on a show.

Punchers create excitement. Promoters and managers love to work with punchers because punchers bring in the fans. That's what it's all about.

That's why fans are going to love reading this special issue. RING

Julian Jackson is a former junior middleweight and two-time middleweight world titleholder who retired in 1998 with a record of 55-6 (49 KOs). He was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2019. He currently works as a coordinator for the amateur boxing program of his native Virgin Islands.

Jersey Joe Walcott on the receiving end of a bomb from fellow heavyweight legend Rocky Marciano.

JABS AND STRAIGHT WRITES

BY THOMAS HAUSER

SOME THOUGHTS ON BOXING

From time to time, I come across something that someone in boxing has said and make a note to share it with readers at a future date. Herewith some thoughts on boxing:

Margaret Goodman: "Fighters should know what boxing is doing to their brain. That's the heart of the matter, really. The fighters should be better protected physically. Some of these guys are hurt; they're injured; and they're allowed to keep fighting. I'm tired of the excuses. I'm sick of it."

Charles Farrell: "If you're in the boxing business, depending on where you're in the boxing business, you're going to have some involvement, if only indirectly, with guns. Your fighter is going to shoot someone or get shot or have a family member shoot someone or get shot by someone. Your fighter is going to walk into a convenience store in a bad part of town just before it gets held up. There will be territorial gang disputes, confrontations with someone's husband over a woman you're fucking, conflicts with shady promoters or road agents over skimpy fight payoffs. You will be in the wrong place at the wrong time."

Tony Ayala Jr.: "I think very little of boxing. To me, boxing is just my job. I don't see it as a grand sport. I don't think that winning or losing a fight is the beginning or end of life. I'm asked, 'Aren't you excited that you'll be getting a shot at a world title?' I don't really care whether or not I ever win a world title. What I'm concerned about is the security of my life financially, the paying off of this house I just bought."

Jimmy Tobin: "No distraction quite compares with watching your guy knock another man senseless. No need to apologize for that or even try to justify it."

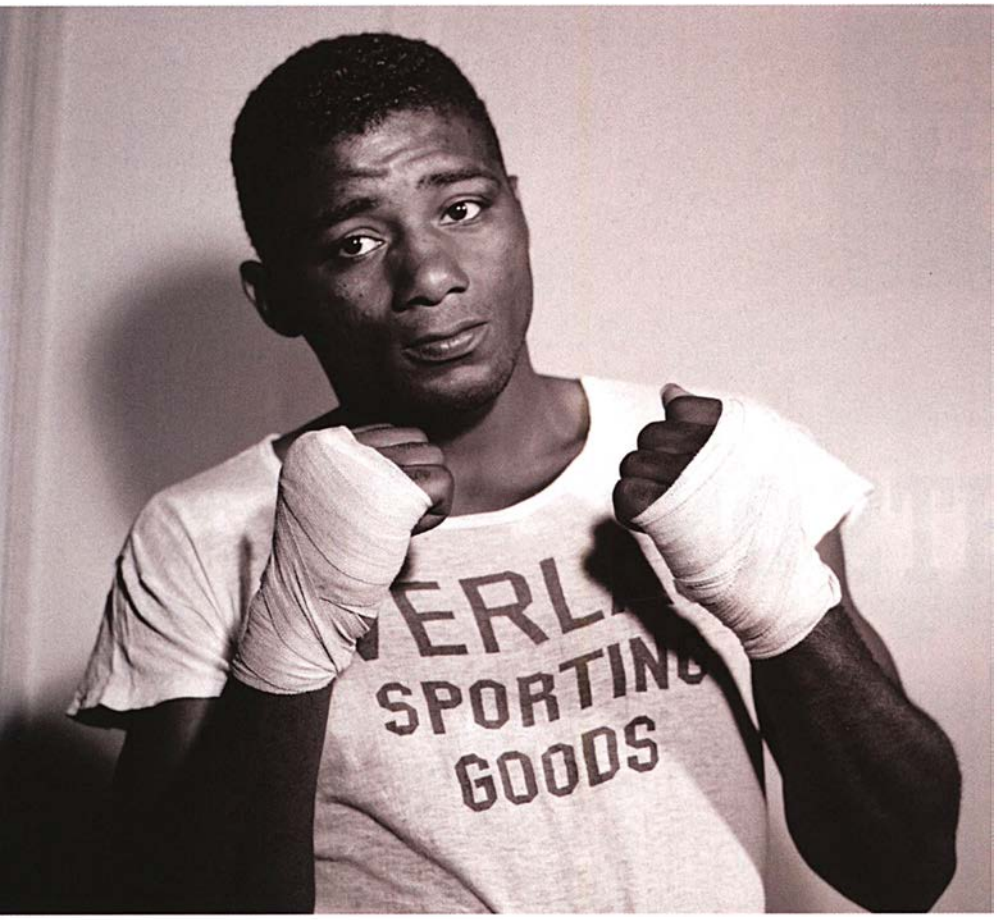
Archie Moore: "I would rather see Ray Robinson punch a speed bag than watch the average guy go out and fight. There was nobody more beautiful than he was."

Larry Merchant: "There are too many governing bodies. They're all corrupt. I think they've replaced the old mobsters with a kind of corporate rule of boxing."

Hugh McIlvanney: "My ambivalence runs very deep. I'm aware of all the statistical evidence that boxing is less dangerous than mountaineering, and boxing is less dangerous than automobile racing. But that's not the issue. The issue

ROCKY MARCIANO: "AS PEOPLE GET MORE CIVILIZED, THEY'RE GOING TO BAN BOXING. A HUNDRED YEARS FROM NOW, WE'LL BE LIKE THE GLADIATORS, SOMETHING OUT OF HISTORY."

HERB SCHARFMAN



Former two-time heavyweight champ Floyd Patterson.

is motive and a core of frightening violence. No matter how you dress it up, boxing is two men trying to batter each other senseless. And we, the public, get the charge without suffering the damage. Now, having said that, I'll add that one should examine the motives of all abolitionists. I'm tired of doctors who attack the sport and say of each knockout, 'So-and-so won that fight on brain damage.' People who drink get brain damage too. And some wonderful human activity has come out of boxing; moments of glory and fighters traveling to places inside themselves that few of us will ever reach. Still, the arguments against boxing are valid. And improved medical care, better pay for fighters; none of that will change the essence of it. Either you take boxing whole or not at all. If boxing were banned tomorrow, I couldn't raise a passionate outcry against the decision. Still, the truth is, as long as boxing exists, I suspect that I'll find it utterly irresistible."

Diego Corrales: "I don't bring my children to my fights. I don't want them to be afraid for me. And I don't want them to see that very aggressive hurting side of me either."

Tom Gerbasi: "A fighter with nothing left but heart is a tragedy waiting to happen."

Carlos Acevedo: "Not many trades are more arduous than boxing where past, present, and future all promise hardship of one kind or another."

Goody Petronelli: "We all know what a great chin Marvin [Hagler] had. But even if you have a great chin, the punches hurt."

Mark Kriegel: "Fighters tend not to be happy people. Forgive the generalization, but I'm not wrong here. They're mined from dismal circumstances, and the business of boxing does little to leaven their distemper."

Bart Barry: "When it gets it right, there's nothing like boxing. And when it gets it wrong, there's nothing like boxing either."

Floyd Patterson: "We are not afraid of getting hurt, but we are afraid of losing. Losing in the ring is like losing nowhere else. A prizefighter who gets knocked out or is badly outclassed suffers in a way he will never forget. He is beaten under the bright lights in front of thousands of witnesses. He is being watched by many thousands more on television. The losing fighter loses more than just his pride and the fight. He loses part of his future and is one step closer to the slum he came from."

Paul Magno: "There are no holy men in boxing at any level."

Ferdie Pacheco: "Boxing writers are a rare breed. It's hard to conceive how a body of men can be so filled with their own importance in spite of the number of times they are wrong. They are called experts which does not carry with it the burden of being right most of the time but apparently only means you have a job writing about boxing."

Thomas Hauser's email address is thomashauserwriter@gmail.com. His most recent book – Broken Dreams: Another Year Inside Boxing *– was published by the University of Arkansas Press. In 2004, the Boxing Writers Association of America honored Hauser with the Nat Fleischer Award for career excellence in boxing journalism. In 2019, he was selected for boxing's highest honor – induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.*

DRINK WITHOUT DROPPING YOUR GUARD.

Introducing Fraqua, the drinks bottle designed exclusively for big gloved sports

Fraqua.com

@fraquabottle @FraquaBottle @fraquabottle

RATINGS

SUMMARY ★ ANALYSIS

The Ring Ratings through fights of March 19, 2022

RECENT FIGHT RESULTS AND CHANGES IN THE RING'S DIVISIONAL RANKINGS BY BRIAN HARTY

CRUISERWEIGHT: Lawrence Okolie (No. 3 last month) got a one-spot promotion after his unanimous decision over Michal Cieslak (No. 8) in late February. Cieslak dropped out and unbeaten Englishman Richard Riakporhe entered at No. 10.

WELTERWEIGHT: David Avenesyan (No. 8) wasn't put off long by Oskari Metz's fluid stance, needing only two minutes to stop the undefeated but less-experienced Finn.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT: Josh Taylor retained the championship, but "undisputed" sounded a bit less majestic after his encounter with Jack Catterall on February 26 in Glasgow. Catterall (unrated last month) was the complete package that night, adept at besting Taylor from any distance (grappling included), even flooring him with a pair of chopping lefts in the eighth round, and all indications were that the Scotsman's homecoming had been spoiled by the performance of a lifetime. Two of the judges then spoiled the Cinderella story with scores favoring Taylor. Public reaction went beyond the usual unrest in the comment section below a fight report; this time it was like lava bubbling up through the floorboards, triggering an investigation by the British Boxing Board of Control (and subsequent "downgrade" of judge Ian John-Lewis, who scored it 114-111 for Taylor) and inspiring one member of Parliament to file a police report. None of this helped Catterall, of course. Taylor praised his foe's effort but blamed his own deficient performance on weight drain and said it would be his last fight at 140.

Sentiments varied on the Ratings Panel, with some members ready to join the pitchfork mob and others bravely admitting they'd scored it for Taylor. Most thought Catterall won, but not everyone was keen to put "robbery" in all caps. With that in mind, Jack was written into the list at No. 4.

In Las Vegas on the same night as Taylor-Catterall, Gary Antuanne Russell notched his biggest win yet with a 10th-round stoppage of former titleholder Viktor Postol (unrated), though the stoppage itself wasn't one of the best calls you'll ever see. Russell entered the list at No. 10, which, along with Catterall's arrival, accounted for the removal of two fighters: Sandor Martin (No. 9) and Montana Love (No. 10).

Then Jose Ramirez, who had most recently lost to the version of Josh Taylor that all those fans in Glasgow wanted to see, got back in the groove with a UD over Jose Pedraza and held his position at No. 2. Pedraza lost his spot at No. 9 but probably just moved back into his tent on The Ring's front lawn, where he can always be found ready to fill a vacancy. This time, No. 10 went to another return customer, Sandor Martin.

Also at 140, Regis Prograis (No. 1) took care of Tyrone McKenna with a sixth-round stoppage in Dubai and Jose Zepeda (No. 3) had a much easier time with Francisco Perez, who was stopped in two. Prograis and Zepeda appear destined to face each other next, with the WBC title on the line.

LIGHTWEIGHT: Javier Fortuna held his position at No. 9 with a first-round knockout of utterly overmatched journeyman Rafael Hernandez – something meant to pass as a "comeback" after losing to Joseph Diaz in July 2021.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT: Showtime and PBC clearly had high hopes for the star potential of Chris Colbert (No. 5 last month), so it was shocking to see the flashy Brooklynite get dropped and schooled by an out-of-nowhere underdog in Hector Garcia, who stepped in on short notice after Roger Gutierrez (No. 6 at the time) tested positive for COVID. Colbert fell off the list and Garcia, who floored the wide-open Colbert with a counter left, entered at No. 8.

Garcia then swapped places with No. 9-rated O'Shaquie Foster, who finally got back in the ring after a lawsuit-fueled layoff of 16 months, cruising through a unanimous decision over Muhammadkhuja Yaqubov in Dubai.

FEATHERWEIGHT: On the Ramirez-Pedraza undercard in Fresno, California, Joet Gonzalez was awarded a stoppage victory after nailing Jeo Santisima (unrated) with a single flush right to the forehead in the ninth round. The punch didn't cause any reaction, and that's apparently what bothered referee Edward Collantes – Santisima had absorbed too many shots just like it and the fight wasn't going anywhere, so the decision was made to save a very tough guy from unnecessary further abuse. Gonzalez rose from No. 10 to No. 9 as a result.

The following night in San Diego, Mauricio Lara remained at No. 3 with an at-the-bell knockout of Emilio Sanchez in Round 3 – the kind of reverse backbender that anyone with knee injuries should watch with caution.

And with featherweight being the place for carnage this month, Leigh Wood (No. 7 last month) and Michael Conlan (unrated) put on an absolutely savage display in Nottingham on March 12. Wood was dropped by a brutal left at the end of the first round, but he clawed his way back in, round after grueling round, until the fight ended in the 12th with Conlan sagging backward through the ropes and dropping to the floor. Wood was raised to No. 4 and Conlan, brilliant in defeat, was brought in at No. 10, replacing Xu Can.

BANTAMWEIGHT: Guillermo Rigondeaux the fighter … he's been teetering under the influence of age and indifference for a long time, so nobody's blown away that he (rated No. 7 last month) was knocked down and outpointed by an unrated guy named Vincent Astrolabio. Rigo is off the list and Astrolabio is in at No. 10. This is the way it eventually goes down for a lot of veterans, even those as preternaturally gifted as the two-time gold medalist and former unified 122-pound champion from Cuba. But what's truly horrible is that just a week after the fight, Rigondeaux was at home in Miami cooking black beans when his pressure cooker exploded in his face, leaving him scalded and 80 percent blind. The hope was that his burned corneas would regenerate over time, quickly even, but his status was unknown at publication.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT: In the 10th defense of his IBF title, held since 2016, Jerwin Ancajas (No. 4 last month) was overwhelmed by Argentina's Fernando Martinez, who threw more than a thousand punches en route to a wide unanimous decision victory. The undefeated Martinez, who was fighting in the U.S. for the first time, sailed onto the list at No. 4, pushing No. 10-rated Carlos Cuadras out, while Ancajas slipped to No. 8.

It's OK to be bummed that a rubber match between Roman Gonzalez (No. 2) and division champ Juan Francisco Estrada was scuttled by COVID (Estrada), but the fight we got instead was more than worthy. Julio Cesar Martinez bravely stepped into the void and unleashed all the youthful aggression that had earned him a title and the No. 1 ranking at flyweight, but Gonzalez once again made it difficult to say which part of "master class" best describes him. He won a unanimous decision and remained at No. 2, but there was a sizable contingent on the Ratings Panel that thought it was time to put the No. 1-rated Srisaket Sor Rungvisai's knockouts aside and ask, "What have you done for me lately?"

FLYWEIGHT: Sunny Edwards (No. 3 last month) made the second successful defense of his IBF title with a unanimous decision over Muhammad Waseem in Dubai. Edwards rose to No. 2.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHT: Masamichi Yabuki's 10th-round stoppage of Kenshiro Teraji last September was a contender for Upset of the Year, but many attributed Teraji's loss at least in part to the effects of a recent COVID infection. Regardless, the rematch brought the more expected result, with Teraji (No. 3 last month) regaining his WBC title via third-round KO, softening Yabuki up with a patient body attack and then putting him on his back with a quick right from what probably seemed like too far away. Teraji also regained his position at No. 1, while Yabuki slipped to No. 8.

POUND FOR POUND: Taylor's dubious win over Catterall also had ramifications here, as many on the panel weren't comfortable with keeping "The Tartan Tornado" ranked at No. 5 after a performance that "didn't look pound-for-pound." Eye-tests and stat-sheets activated in search of the always-elusive balance between real-world results and barbershop banter, they decided to stick Taylor at No. 8.

And even if Gonzalez didn't get a promotion in his actual weight division, his demonstration of the greatness that still very much flows in his veins was enough to inspire a movement to bring him back in the mythical rankings. It was a lengthy debate, enough to fill this page with quotes, and it ultimately went in Chocolatito's favor: He returned at No. 9, which pushed Tyson Fury (No. 10) off the list.

P4P

1	**CANELO ALVAREZ**	Mexico • 57-1-2 (39 KOs)
2	**OLEKSANDR USYK**	Ukraine • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
3	**TERENCE CRAWFORD**	U.S. • 38-0-0 (29 KOs)
4	**NAOYA INOUE**	Japan • 22-0-0 (19 KOs)
5	**ERROL SPENCE JR.**	U.S. • 27-0-0 (21 KOs)
6	**JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA**	Mexico • 42-3-0 (28 KOs)
7	**VASILIY LOMACHENKO**	Ukraine • 16-2-0 (11 KOs)
8	**JOSH TAYLOR**	U.K. • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
9	**ROMAN GONZALEZ**	Nicaragua • 51-3-0 (41 KOs)
10	**KAZUTO IOKA**	Japan • 27-2-0 (15 KOs)

HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT UNLIMITED

C	**TYSON FURY** RING, WBC	U.K. • 31-0-1 (22 KOs)
1	**OLEKSANDR USYK** IBF, WBA, WBO	Ukraine • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
2	**ANTHONY JOSHUA**	U.K. • 24-2-0 (22 KOs)
3	**DEONTAY WILDER**	U.S. • 42-2-1 (41 KOs)
4	**DILLIAN WHYTE**	U.K. • 28-2-0 (19 KOs)
5	**JOSEPH PARKER**	New Zealand • 30-2-0 (21 KOs)
6	**ANDY RUIZ JR.**	U.S. • 34-2-0 (22 KOs)
7	**LUIS ORTIZ**	Cuba • 33-2-0 (28 KOs)
8	**JOE JOYCE**	U.K. • 13-0-0 (12 KOs)
9	**FILIP HRGOVIC**	Croatia • 14-0-0 (12 KOs)
10	**FRANK SANCHEZ**	Cuba • 20-0-0 (13 KOs)

CRUISERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 200 POUNDS

C	**MAIRIS BRIEDIS** RING, IBF	Latvia • 28-1-0 (20 KOs)
1	**YUNIEL DORTICOS**	Cuba • 25-2-0 (23 KOs)
2	**LAWRENCE OKOLIE** WBO	U.K. • 18-0-0 (14 KOs)
3	**ILUNGA MAKABU** WBC	Congo • 29-2-0 (25 KOs)
4	**THABISO MCHUNU**	S. Africa • 23-6-0 (13 KOs)
5	**KEVIN LERENA**	S. Africa • 26-1-0 (13 KOs)
6	**KRZYSZTOF GLOWACKI**	Poland • 31-3-0 (19 KOs)
7	**ALEKSEI PAPIN**	Russia • 13-1-0 (12 KOs)
8	**MATEUSZ MASTERNAK**	Poland • 46-5-0 (31 KOs)
9	**RYAD MERHY**	Belgium • 30-1-0 (25 KOs)
10	**RICHARD RIAKPORHE**	U.K. • 13-0-0 (9 KOs)

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 175 POUNDS

C	**(VACANT)**	
1	**ARTUR BETERBIEV** IBF, WBC	Russia • 17-0-0 (17 KOs)
2	**DMITRY BIVOL** WBA	Russia • 19-0-0 (11 KOs)
3	**JOE SMITH JR.** WBO	U.S. • 28-3-0 (22 KOs)
4	**MAXIM VLASOV**	Russia • 46-4-0 (26 KOs)
5	**GILBERTO RAMIREZ**	Mexico • 43-0-0 (29 KOs)
6	**CALLUM SMITH**	U.K. • 28-1-0 (20 KOs)
7	**MARCUS BROWNE**	U.S. • 24-2-0 (16 KOs)
8	**ANTHONY YARDE**	U.K. • 22-2-0 (21 KOs)
9	**JOSHUA BUATSI**	U.K. • 15-0-0 (13 KOs)
10	**MATHIEU BAUDERLIQUE**	France • 21-1-0 (12 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 POUNDS

C	**CANELO ALVAREZ** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO	Mexico • 57-1-2 (39 KOs)
1	**DAVID BENAVIDEZ**	U.S. • 25-0-0 (22 KOs)
2	**CALEB PLANT**	U.S. • 21-1-0 (12 KOs)
3	**BILLY JOE SAUNDERS**	U.K. • 30-1-0 (14 KOs)
4	**ANTHONY DIRRELL**	U.S. • 34-2-2 (25 KOs)
5	**JOHN RYDER**	U.K. • 31-5-0 (17 KOs)
6	**DAVID LEMIEUX**	Canada • 43-4-0 (36 KOs)
7	**FEDOR CHUDINOV**	Russia • 25-2-1 (17 KOs)
8	**CHRISTIAN MBILLI**	France • 20-0-0 (18 KOs)
9	**ZACH PARKER**	U.K. • 22-0-0 (16 KOs)
10	**LERRONE RICHARDS**	U.K. • 16-0-0 (3 KOs)

RATINGS

Through fights of March 19, 2022

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 POUNDS

- **C** (VACANT)
- **1** **GENNADIY GOLOVKIN** IBF
  Kazakhstan • 41-1-1 (36 KOs)
- **2** **JERMALL CHARLO** WBC
  U.S. • 32-0-0 (22 KOs)
- **3** **DEMETRIUS ANDRADE** WBO
  U.S. • 31-0-0 (19 KOs)
- **4** **JAIME MUNGUIA**
  Mexico • 39-0-0 (31 KOs)
- **5** **RYOTA MURATA** WBA
  Japan • 16-2-0 (13 KOs)
- **6** **CHRIS EUBANK JR.**
  U.K. • 32-2-0 (23 KOs)
- **7** **ZHANIBEK ALIMKHANULY**
  Kazakhstan • 11-0-0 (7 KOs)
- **8** **CARLOS ADAMES**
  Dom. Rep. • 21-1-0 (16 KOs)
- **9** **SERGIY DEREVYANCHENKO**
  Ukraine • 13-4-0 (10 KOs)
- **10** **FELIX CASH**
  U.K. • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 POUNDS

- **C** **JERMELL CHARLO** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC
  U.S. • 34-1-1 (18 KOs)
- **1** **BRIAN CASTANO** WBO
  Argentina • 17-0-2 (12 KOs)
- **2** **JARRETT HURD**
  U.S. • 24-2-0 (16 KOs)
- **3** **ERISLANDY LARA**
  Cuba • 28-3-3 (16 KOs)
- **4** **ERICKSON LUBIN**
  U.S. • 24-1-0 (17 KOs)
- **5** **TIM TSZYU**
  Australia • 20-0-0 (15 KOs)
- **6** **SEBASTIAN FUNDORA**
  U.S. • 18-0-1 (12 KOs)
- **7** **TONY HARRISON**
  U.S. • 28-3-1 (21 KOs)
- **8** **MAGOMED KURBANOV**
  Russia • 22-0-0 (13 KOs)
- **9** **ISRAIL MADRIMOV**
  Uzbekistan • 8-0-0 (6 KOs)
- **10** **LIAM SMITH**
  U.K. • 30-3-1 (17 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 POUNDS

- **C** (VACANT)
- **1** **TERENCE CRAWFORD** WBO
  U.S. • 38-0-0 (29 KOs)
- **2** **ERROL SPENCE JR.** IBF, WBC
  U.S. • 27-0-0 (21 KOs)
- **3** **YORDENIS UGAS** WBA
  Cuba • 27-4-0 (12 KOs)
- **4** **JARON ENNIS**
  U.S. • 28-0-0 (26 KOs)
- **5** **VERGIL ORTIZ JR.**
  U.S. • 18-0-0 (18 KOs)
- **6** **KEITH THURMAN**
  U.S. • 30-1-0 (22 KOs)
- **7** **EIMANTAS STANIONIS**
  Lithuania • 13-0-0 (9 KOs)
- **8** **DAVID AVANESYAN**
  Russia • 29-3-1 (17 KOs)
- **9** **RADZHAB BUTAEV**
  Russia • 14-0-0 (11 KOs)
- **10** **CONOR BENN**
  U.K. • 20-0-0 (13 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 POUNDS

- **C** **JOSH TAYLOR** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO
  U.K. • 19-0-0 (13 KOs)
- **1** **REGIS PROGRAIS**
  U.S. • 27-1-0 (23 KOs)
- **2** **JOSE RAMIREZ**
  U.S. • 27-1-0 (17 KOs)
- **3** **JOSE ZEPEDA**
  U.S. • 36-2-0 (28 KOs)
- **4** **JACK CATTERALL**
  U.K. • 26-1-0 (13 KOs)
- **5** **SUBRIEL MATIAS**
  Puerto Rico • 18-1-0 (18 KOs)
- **6** **ARNOLD BARBOZA**
  U.S. • 26-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **7** **SHOHJAHON ERGASHEV**
  Uzbekistan • 21-0-0 (19 KOs)
- **8** **BATYR AKHMEDOV**
  Russia • 9-1-0 (8 KOs)
- **9** **GARY ANTUANNE RUSSELL**
  U.S. • 15-0-0 (15 KOs)
- **10** **SANDOR MARTIN**
  Spain • 39-2-0 (13 KOs)

Jack Catterall (left) earned a No. 4 spot at 140 pounds on the strength of a highly contentious loss to champion Josh Taylor.

Gary Antuanne Russell (left) debuted at 140 pounds in the No. 9 spot following a TKO 10 win over former titleholder Viktor Postol.

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 POUNDS

- **C** **GEORGE KAMBOSOS JR.** RING, IBF, WBA, WBO
  Australia • 20-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **1** **TEOFIMO LOPEZ**
  U.S. • 16-1-0 (12 KOs)
- **2** **VASILIY LOMACHENKO**
  Ukraine • 16-2-0 (11 KOs)
- **3** **DEVIN HANEY** WBC
  U.S. • 27-0-0 (15 KOs)
- **4** **GERVONTA DAVIS**
  U.S. • 26-0-0 (24 KOs)
- **5** **RYAN GARCIA**
  U.S. • 21-0-0 (18 KOs)
- **6** **ISAAC CRUZ**
  Mexico • 22-2-1 (15 KOs)
- **7** **JOSEPH DIAZ JR.**
  U.S. • 32-2-1 (15 KOs)
- **8** **RICHARD COMMEY**
  Ghana • 30-4-0 (27 KOs)
- **9** **JAVIER FORTUNA**
  Dom. Rep. • 37-3-1 (26 KOs)
- **10** **WILLIAM ZEPEDA**
  Mexico • 25-0-0 (23 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 POUNDS

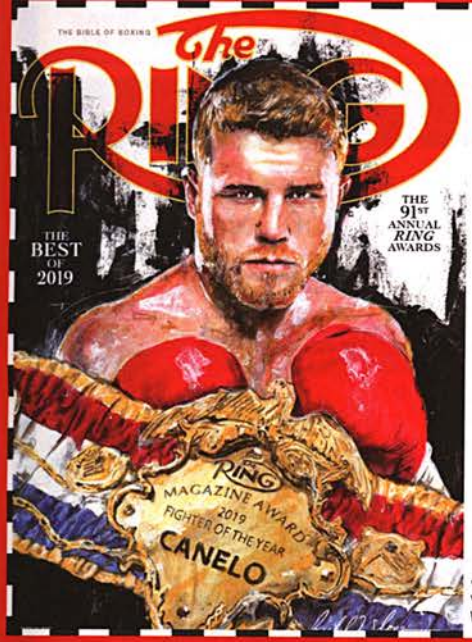
- **C** (VACANT)
- **1** **SHAKUR STEVENSON** WBO
  U.S. • 17-0-0 (9 KOs)
- **2** **MIGUEL BERCHELT**
  Mexico • 38-2-0 (34 KOs)
- **3** **JAMEL HERRING**
  U.S. • 23-3-0 (11 KOs)
- **4** **SHAVKATDZHON RAKHIMOV**
  Russia • 16-0-1 (13 KOs)
- **5** **ROGER GUTIERREZ**
  Venezuela • 26-3-1 (20 KOs)
- **6** **ROBSON CONCEICAO**
  Brazil • 17-1-0 (8 KOs)
- **7** **KENICHI OGAWA** IBF
  Japan • 26-1-1 (18 KOs)
- **8** **O'SHAQUIE FOSTER**
  U.S. • 19-2-0 (11 KOs)
- **9** **HECTOR GARCIA**
  Dom. Rep. • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **10** **SAMIR ZIANI**
  France • 33-3-1 (8 KOs)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 POUNDS

- **C** (VACANT)
- **1** **EMANUEL NAVARRETE** WBO
  Mexico • 35-1-0 (29 KOs)
- **2** **MARK MAGSAYO** WBC
  Phil. • 24-0-0 (16 KOs)
- **3** **MAURICIO LARA**
  Mexico • 24-2-1 (17 KOs)
- **4** **LEIGH WOOD**
  U.K. • 26-2-0 (16 KOs)
- **5** **JOSH WARRINGTON**
  U.K. • 30-1-1 (7 KOs)
- **6** **KIKO MARTINEZ** IBF
  Spain • 43-10-2 (30 KOs)
- **7** **GARY RUSSELL JR.**
  U.S. • 31-2-0 (18 KOs)
- **8** **KID GALAHAD**
  U.K. • 28-2-0 (17 KOs)
- **9** **JOET GONZALEZ**
  U.S. • 25-2-0 (15 KOs)
- **10** **MICHAEL CONLAN**
  Ireland • 16-1-0 (8 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 POUNDS

- **C** (VACANT)
- **1** **STEPHEN FULTON** WBC, WBO
  U.S. • 20-0-0 (8 KOs)
- **2** **MURODJON AKHMADALIEV** IBF, WBA
  Uzbekistan • 10-0-0 (7 KOs)
- **3** **DANIEL ROMAN**
  U.S. • 29-3-1 (10 KOs)
- **4** **BRANDON FIGUEROA**
  U.S. • 22-1-1 (17 KOs)
- **5** **ANGELO LEO**
  U.S. • 21-1-0 (9 KOs)
- **6** **RA'EESE ALEEM**
  U.S. • 19-0-0 (12 KOs)
- **7** **AZAT HOVHANNISYAN**
  Armenia • 20-3-0 (16 KOs)
- **8** **RONNY RIOS**
  U.S. • 33-3-0 (16 KOs)
- **9** **MARLON TAPALES**
  Phil. • 35-3-0 (18 KOs)
- **10** **LUIS NERY**
  Mexico • 32-1-0 (24 KOs)



GET 6 ISSUES FOR $24.99

3 ISSUES FREE

SPECIAL DISCOUNT
PROMO CODE: 6301NC

NAME

ADDRESS / APT

CITY / STATE / ZIP

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐CHECK / MONEY ORDER ☐VISA ☐MASTERCARD ☐AMEX

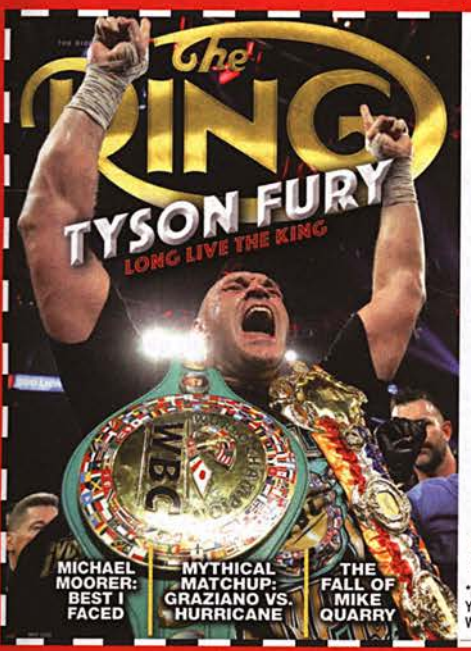
CARD # / EXP. DATE

3 OR 4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE

MAIL TO: THE RING MAGAZINE SUBSCRIBER SERVICE DEPT., PO BOX 16027, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91615-6027
OR CALL: 1.800.846.6438 **OR EMAIL:** thering@emailcustomerservice.com

*FOR CANADA AND MEXICO: $29.99 FOR 6 ISSUES; $49.99 FOR ONE YEAR; $79.99 FOR TWO YEARS. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $34.99 FOR 6 ISSUES; $59.99 FOR ONE YEAR; $99.99 FOR TWO YEARS. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. AIRMAIL SHIPPING ONLY OUTSIDE THE U.S. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2021



GET 12 ISSUES FOR $39.99

7 ISSUES FREE

SPECIAL DISCOUNT
PROMO CODE: 6301NC

NAME

ADDRESS / APT

CITY / STATE / ZIP

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐CHECK / MONEY ORDER ☐VISA ☐MASTERCARD ☐AMEX

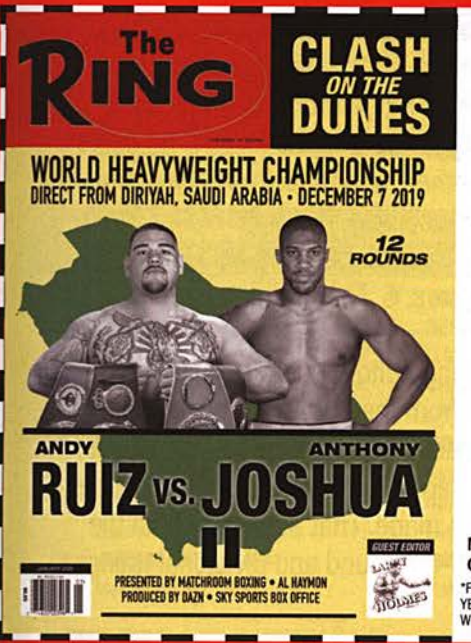
CARD # / EXP. DATE

3 OR 4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE

MAIL TO: THE RING MAGAZINE SUBSCRIBER SERVICE DEPT., PO BOX 16027, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91615-6027
OR CALL: 1.800.846.6438 **OR EMAIL:** thering@emailcustomerservice.com

*FOR CANADA AND MEXICO: $29.99 FOR 6 ISSUES; $49.99 FOR ONE YEAR; $79.99 FOR TWO YEARS. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $34.99 FOR 6 ISSUES; $59.99 FOR ONE YEAR; $99.99 FOR TWO YEARS. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. AIRMAIL SHIPPING ONLY OUTSIDE THE U.S. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2021



GET 24 ISSUES FOR $64.99

16 ISSUES FREE

SPECIAL DISCOUNT
PROMO CODE: 6301NC

NAME

ADDRESS / APT

CITY / STATE / ZIP

EMAIL

TELEPHONE

PAYMENT METHOD: ☐CHECK / MONEY ORDER ☐VISA ☐MASTERCARD ☐AMEX

CARD # / EXP. DATE

3 OR 4 DIGIT SECURITY CODE

SIGNATURE

MAIL TO: THE RING MAGAZINE SUBSCRIBER SERVICE DEPT., PO BOX 16027, NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91615-6027
OR CALL: 1.800.846.6438 **OR EMAIL:** thering@emailcustomerservice.com

*FOR CANADA AND MEXICO: $29.99 FOR 6 ISSUES; $49.99 FOR ONE YEAR; $79.99 FOR TWO YEARS. ALL OTHER COUNTRIES: $34.99 FOR 6 ISSUES; $59.99 FOR ONE YEAR; $99.99 FOR TWO YEARS. INTERNATIONAL MONEY ORDERS ONLY IN U.S. FUNDS ONLY. AIRMAIL SHIPPING ONLY OUTSIDE THE U.S. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO EIGHT WEEKS BEFORE YOU RECEIVE YOUR FIRST MAGAZINE. OFFER EXPIRES DECEMBER 31, 2021

RATINGS

Through fights of March 19, 2022

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 POUNDS

- **C** **NAOYA INOUE** RING, IBF, WBA
  Japan • 22-0-0 (19 KOs)
- **1** **NONITO DONAIRE** WBC
  Phil. • 42-6-0 (28 KOs)
- **2** **JOHN RIEL CASIMERO** WBO
  Phil. • 31-4-0 (21 KOs)
- **3** **EMMANUEL RODRIGUEZ**
  Puerto Rico • 19-2-0 (12 KOs)
- **4** **NORDINE OUBAALI**
  France • 17-1-0 (12 KOs)
- **5** **JASON MOLONEY**
  Australia • 22-2-0 (18 KOs)
- **6** **TAKUMA INOUE**
  Japan • 15-1-0 (3 KOs)
- **7** **RAU'SHEE WARREN**
  U.S. • 19-3-0 (5 KOs)
- **8** **GARY ANTONIO RUSSELL**
  U.S. • 19-0-0 (12 KOs)
- **9** **LEE MCGREGOR**
  U.K. • 11-0-1 (9 KOs)
- **10** **VINCENT ASTROLABIO**
  Phil. • 17-3-0 (12 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 POUNDS

- **C** **JUAN FRANCISCO ESTRADA** RING, WBA
  Mexico • 42-3-0 (28 KOs)
- **1** **SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI**
  Thailand • 50-5-1 (43 KOs)
- **2** **ROMAN GONZALEZ**
  Nicaragua • 51-3-0 (41 KOs)
- **3** **KAZUTO IOKA** WBO
  Japan • 28-2-0 (15 KOs)
- **4** **FERNANDO MARTINEZ** IBF
  Argentina • 14-0-0 (8 KOs)
- **5** **JOSHUA FRANCO**
  U.S. • 18-1-2 (8 KOs)
- **6** **JESSE RODRIGUEZ** WBC
  Mexico • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **7** **FRANCISCO RODRIGUEZ JR.**
  Mexico • 35-5-1 (25 KOs)
- **8** **JERWIN ANCAJAS**
  Phil. • 33-2-2 (22 KOs)
- **9** **DONNIE NIETES**
  Phil. • 43-1-6 (23 KOs)
- **10** **ANDREW MOLONEY**
  Australia • 22-2-0 (14 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 POUNDS

- **C** **(VACANT)**
- **1** **JULIO CESAR MARTINEZ** WBC
  Mexico • 18-2-0 (14 KOs)
- **2** **SUNNY EDWARDS** IBF
  U.K. • 18-0-0 (4 KOs)
- **3** **JUNTO NAKATANI** WBO
  Japan • 22-0-0 (17 KOs)
- **4** **ARTEM DALAKIAN** WBA
  Ukraine • 21-0-0 (15 KOs)
- **5** **RICARDO SANDOVAL**
  U.S. • 20-1-0 (15 KOs)
- **6** **MORUTI MTHALANE**
  S. Africa • 39-3-0 (26 KOs)
- **7** **CRISTOFER ROSALES**
  Nicaragua • 32-5-0 (21 KOs)
- **8** **MCWILLIAMS ARROYO**
  Puerto Rico • 21-4-0 (16 KOs)
- **9** **JACKSON CHAUKE**
  S. Africa • 20-1-1 (14 KOs)
- **10** **RYOTA YAMAUCHI**
  Japan • 8-1-0 (7 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 POUNDS

- **C** **HIROTO KYOGUCHI** RING, WBA
  Japan • 15-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **1** **KENSHIRO TERAJI** WBC
  Japan • 19-1-0 (11 KOs)
- **2** **FELIX ALVARADO** IBF
  Nicaragua • 37-2-0 (32 KOs)
- **3** **JONATHAN GONZALEZ** WBO
  Puerto Rico • 25-3-1 (14 KOs)
- **4** **JESSE RODRIGUEZ**
  U.S. • 14-0-0 (10 KOs)
- **5** **ELWIN SOTO**
  Mexico • 19-2-0 (13 KOs)
- **6** **HEKKIE BUDLER**
  S. Africa • 33-4-0 (10 KOs)
- **7** **AGUSTIN GAUTO**
  Argentina • 17-0-0 (12 KOs)
- **8** **MASAMICHI YABUKI**
  Japan • 13-4-0 (12 KOs)
- **9** **ESTEBAN BERMUDEZ**
  Mexico • 14-3-2 (10 KOs)
- **10** **DANIEL MATELLON**
  Cuba • 12-0-2 (6 KOs)

Underdog Hector Garcia (right) crashed the 130-pound ratings at No. 9 after outboxing the highly touted Chris Colbert, who dropped out.

Leigh Wood (right) jumped to No. 4 at 126 pounds with an inspired triumph over Michael Conlan, who entered at No. 10 in defeat.

STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 POUNDS

- **C** **(VACANT)**
- **1** **KNOCKOUT CP FRESHMART** WBA
  Thailand • 23-0-0 (9 KOs)
- **2** **PETCHMANEE CP FRESHMART** WBC
  Thailand • 37-1-0 (23 KOs)
- **3** **WANHENG MENAYOTHIN**
  Thailand • 55-1-0 (19 KOs)
- **4** **MASATAKA TANIGUCHI** WBO
  Japan • 15-3-0 (10 KOs)
- **5** **WILFREDO MENDEZ**
  Puerto Rico • 16-2-0 (6 KOs)
- **6** **RENE MARK CUARTO** IBF
  Phil. • 20-2-2 (11 KOs)
- **7** **PEDRO TADURAN**
  Phil. • 14-4-1 (11 KOs)
- **8** **ERICK ROSA**
  Dom. Rep. • 5-0-0 (1 KO)
- **9** **VIC SALUDAR**
  Phil. • 21-5-0 (11 KOs)
- **10** **GINJIRO SHIGEOKA**
  Japan • 6-0-0 (5 KOs)

HOW OUR RATINGS ARE COMPILED

RECORDS PROVIDED BY BOXREC.COM

Championship vacancies can be filled in the following two ways: 1. The Ring's Nos. 1 and 2 contenders fight one another. 2. If the Nos. 1 and 2 contenders choose not to fight one another and No. 1 fights No. 3, that matchup could be for the Ring title if the Editorial Board deems No. 3 worthy.

A champion can lose his belt in six situations: 1. The Champion loses a fight in the weight class in which he is champion; 2. The Champion moves to another weight class; 3. The Champion does not schedule a fight in any weight class for 18 months, although injuries and certain other unforeseen circumstances could be taken into consideration; 4. The Champion does not schedule a fight at his championship weight for 18 months (even if he fights at another weight); 5. The Champion does not schedule a fight with a Top-5 contender from any weight class for two years; 6. The Champion retires.

The Ring Editorial Board considers input from the Ratings Panel of boxing journalists from around the world and then decides collectively what changes will be made. That applies to both the pound-for-pound and divisional ratings.

WOMEN'S RATINGS

Through fights of March 19, 2022

POUND FOR POUND

1 **KATIE TAYLOR**
Ireland • 20-0-0 (6 KOs)

2 **CLARESSA SHIELDS**
U.S. • 12-0-0 (2 KOs)

3 **AMANDA SERRANO**
Puerto Rico • 42-1-1 (30 KOs)

4 **JESSICA MCCASKILL**
U.S. • 11-2-0 (4 KOs)

5 **DELFINE PERSOON**
Belgium • 46-3-0 (19 KOs)

6 **CHANTELLE CAMERON**
U.K. • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)

7 **MIKAELA MAYER**
U.S. • 16-0-0 (5 KOs)

8 **SENIESA ESTRADA**
U.S. • 22-0-0 (9 KOs)

9 **CECILIA BRAEKHUS**
Norway • 36-2-0 (9 KOs)

10 **SAVANNAH MARSHALL**
U.K. • 11-0-0 (9 KOs)

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 168 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **ELIN CEDERROOS** IBF, WBA
Sweden • 8-0-0 (4 KOs)
2 **FRANCHON CREWS-DEZURN** WBC, WBO
U.S. • 7-1-0 (2 KOs)
3 **EMA KOZIN**
Slovenia • 21-1-1 (11 KOs)
4 **CHRISTINA HAMMER**
Germany • 27-1-0 (13 KOs)
5 **SHADASIA GREEN**
U.S. • 9-0-0 (8 KOs)

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 160 POUNDS

C **CLARESSA SHIELDS** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO
U.S. • 12-0-0 (2 KOs)
1 **SAVANNAH MARSHALL**
U.K. • 11-0-0 (9 KOs)
2 **CHRISTINA HAMMER**
Germany • 27-1-0 (13 KOs)
3 **EMA KOZIN**
Slovenia • 21-1-1 (11 KOs)
4 **FEMKE HERMANS**
Belgium • 12-3-0 (5 KOs)
5 **RAQUEL MILLER**
U.S. • 11-0-0 (4 KOs)

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 154 POUNDS

C **CLARESSA SHIELDS** RING
U.S. • 12-0-0 (2 KOs)
1 **MARIE EVE DICAIRE**
Canada • 18-1-0 (1 KO)
2 **PATRICIA BERGHULT** WBC
Sweden • 15-0-0 (3 KOs)
3 **HANNAH RANKIN** WBA
U.K. • 11-5-0 (2 KOs)
4 **NATASHA JONAS** WBO
U.K. • 11-2-1 (8 KOs)
5 **CHRIS NAMUS**
Uruguay • 25-7-0 (8 KOs)

WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 147 POUNDS

C **JESSICA MCCASKILL** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO
U.S. • 11-2-0 (4 KOs)
1 **CECILIA BRAEKHUS**
Norway • 36-2-0 (9 KOs)
2 **LAYLA MCCARTER**
U.S. • 44-13-5 (11 KOs)
3 **VICTORIA BUSTOS**
Argentina • 23-6-0 (0 KOs)
4 **LOLITA MUZEYA**
Zambia • 17-1-0 (9 KOs)
5 **EWA PIATKOWSKA**
Poland • 16-1-0 (4 KOs)

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 140 POUNDS

C **CHANTELLE CAMERON** RING, IBF, WBC
U.K. • 15-0-0 (8 KOs)
1 **ERICA FARIAS**
Argentina • 27-5-0 (10 KOs)
2 **KALI REIS** WBA, WBO
U.S. • 19-7-1 (5 KOs)
3 **MARY MCGEE**
U.S. • 27-4-0 (15 KOs)
4 **ANAHI SANCHEZ**
Argentina • 20-5-0 (12 KOs)
5 **JESSICA CAMARA**
Canada • 8-3-0 (0 KOs)

LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 135 POUNDS

C **KATIE TAYLOR** RING, IBF, WBA, WBC, WBO
Ireland • 20-0-0 (6 KOs)
1 **DELFINE PERSOON**
Belgium • 46-3-0 (19 KOs)
2 **AMANDA SERRANO**
Puerto Rico • 42-1-1 (30 KOs)
3 **ESTELLE MOSSELY**
Belgium • 10-0-0 (1 KOs)
4 **MIRIAM GUTIERREZ**
Spain • 14-2-0 (5 KOs)
5 **TERRI HARPER**
U.K. • 12-1-1 (6 KOs)

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 130 POUNDS

C **MIKAELA MAYER** RING, IBF, WBO
U.S. • 16-0-0 (5 KOs)
1 **DELFINE PERSOON**
Belgium • 46-3-0 (19 KOs)
2 **ALYCIA BAUMGARDNER** WBC
U.S. • 11-1-0 (7 KOs)
3 **MAIVA HAMADOUCHE**
France • 22-2-0 (18 KOs)
4 **HYUN MI CHOI** WBA
South Korea • 19-0-1 (5 KOs)
5 **JENNIFER HAN**
U.S. • 18-4-1 (1 KO)

FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 126 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **AMANDA SERRANO** WBC, WBO
Puerto Rico • 42-1-1 (30 KOs)
2 **ERIKA CRUZ HERNANDEZ** WBA
Mexico • 14-1-0 (3 KOs)
3 **SARAH MAHFOUD**
Denmark • 10-0-0 (3 KOs)
4 **JELENA MRDJENOVICH**
Canada • 41-11-2 (19 KOs)
5 **ELINA TISSEN**
Germany • 25-2-0 (6 KOs)

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 122 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **JACKIE NAVA**
Mexico • 39-4-4 (16 KOs)
2 **DINA THORSLUND** WBO
Denmark • 17-0-0 (7 KOs)
3 **SEGOLENE LEFEBVRE**
France • 15-0-0 (1 KO)
4 **YAMILETH MERCADO** WBC
Mexico • 18-3-0 (5 KOs)
5 **MARIANA JUAREZ**
Mexico • 55-11-4 (19 KOs)

BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 118 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **DINA THORSLUND** WBO
Denmark • 17-0-0 (7 KOs)
2 **YULIHAN LUNA AVILA** WBC
Mexico • 22-3-1 (4 KOs)
3 **MARIANA JUAREZ**
Mexico • 55-11-4 (19 KOs)
4 **ZULINA MUNOZ**
Mexico • 53-4-2 (30 KOs)
5 **MARIA CECILIA ROMAN** IBF
Argentina • 16-5-1 (0 KOs)

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 115 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **LOURDES JUAREZ** WBC
Mexico • 33-2-0 (4 KOs)
2 **GUADALUPE MARTINEZ**
Mexico • 19-10-0 (6 KOs)
3 **YESSICA CHAVEZ**
Mexico • 32-5-3 (4 KOs)
4 **DIANA FERNANDEZ**
Mexico • 24-4-1 (4 KOs)
5 **ADELAIDA RUIZ**
U.S. • 10-0-1 (5 KOs)

FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 112 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **MARLEN ESPARZA**
U.S. • 11-1-0 (1 KOs) WBC
2 **NAOKO FUJIOKA** WBA
Japan • 19-2-1 (7 KOs)
3 **ARELY MUCINO** WBO
Mexico • 31-3-2 (11 KOs)
4 **IBETH ZAMORA**
Mexico • 32-7-0 (12 KOs)
5 **GABRIELA ALANIZ**
Argentina • 12-0-0 (4 KOs)

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 108 POUNDS

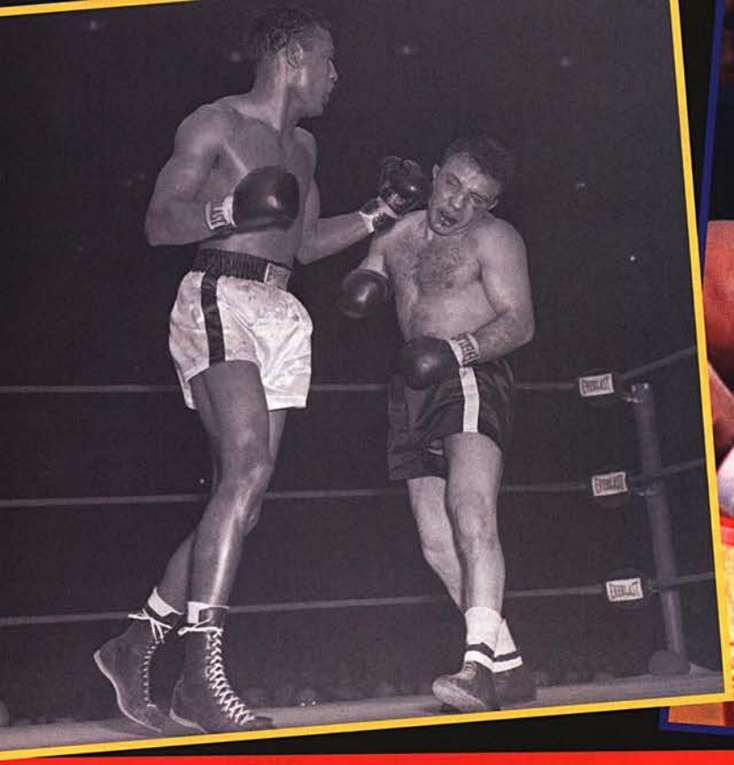
C **(VACANT)**
1 **SENIESA ESTRADA** WBO
U.S. • 21-0-0 (8 KOs)
2 **EVELYN BERMUDEZ** IBF
Argentina • 15-0-1 (5 KOs)
3 **KIM CLAVEL**
Canada • 15-0-0 (3 KOs)
4 **TSUNAMI TENKAI**
Japan • 28-13-1 (16 KOs)
5 **JESSICA NERY PLATA**
Mexico • 28-2-0 (3 KOs)

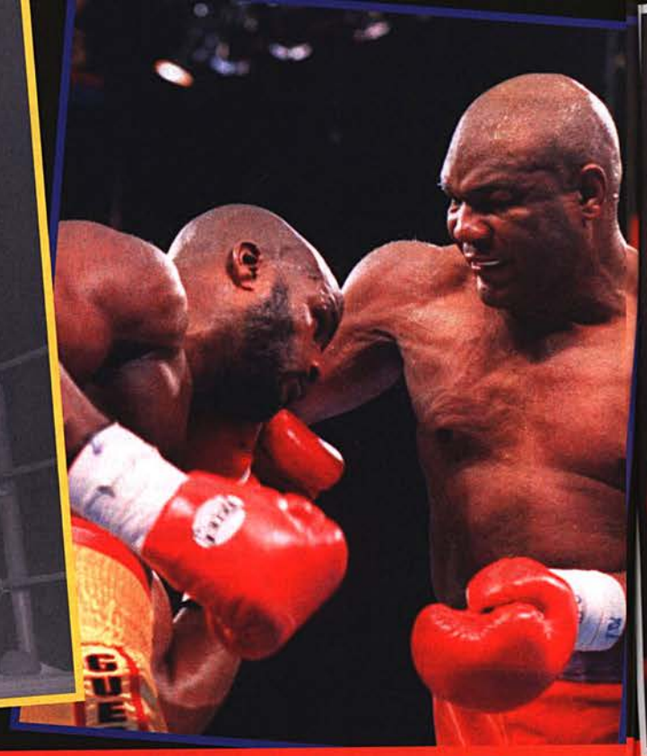
STRAWWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 105 POUNDS

C **(VACANT)**
1 **SENIESA ESTRADA** WBA
U.S. • 22-0-0 (9 KOs)
2 **CHRISTINA RUPPRECHT** WBC
Germany • 11-0-1 (3 KOs)
3 **YOKASTA VALLE** IBF
Nicaragua • 23-2-0 (9 KOs)
4 **ANABEL ORTIZ**
Mexico • 31-5-0 (4 KOs)
5 **THI THU NHI NGUYEN** WBO
Vietnam • 5-0-0 (1 KO)

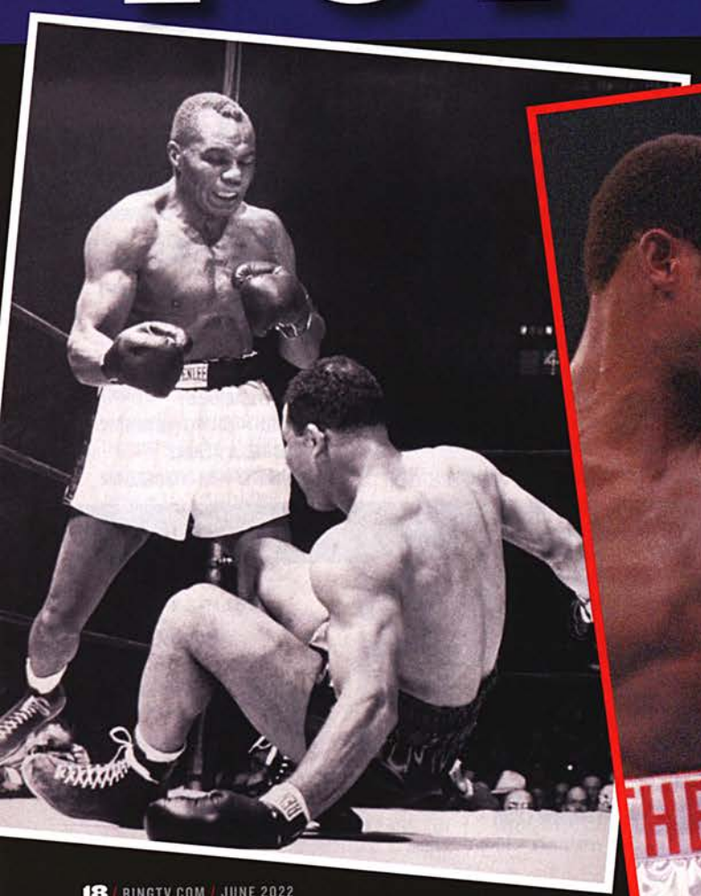
ATOMWEIGHTS
WEIGHT LIMIT: 102 POUNDS

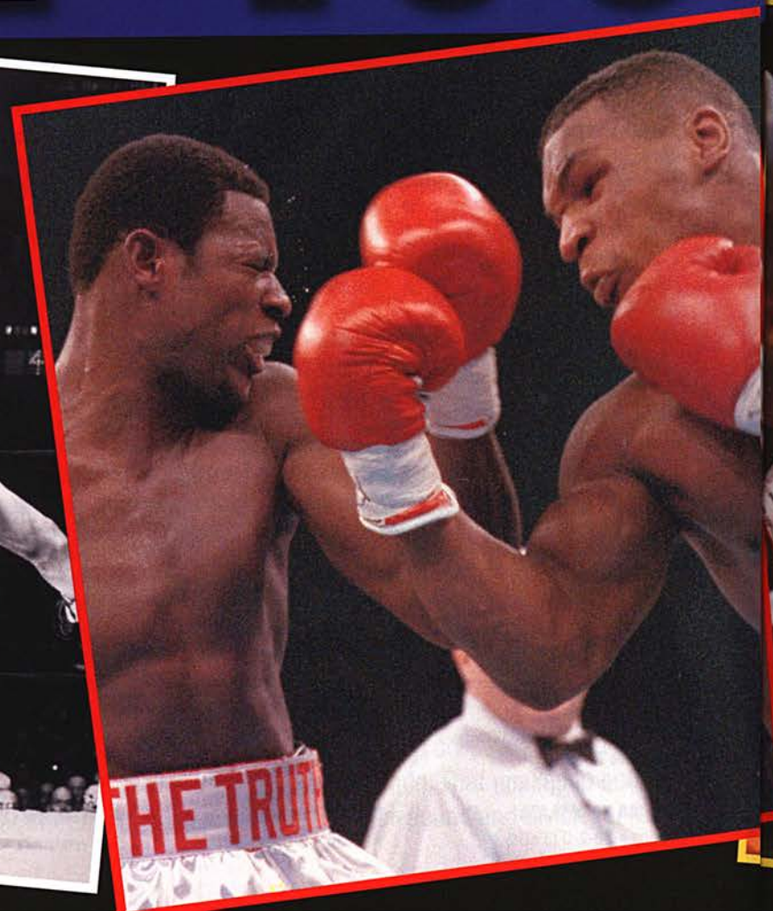
C **(VACANT)**
1 **MONSERRAT ALARCON** WBA
Mexico • 17-4-2 (0 KOs)
2 **FABIANA BYTYQI** WBC
Czech Rep. • 19-0-1 (5 KOs)
3 **MIKA IWAKAWA** WBO
Japan • 10-6-1 (3 KOs)
4 **ERI MATSUDA**
Japan • 4-1-1 (1 KO)
5 **YENIFER LEON**
Venezuela • 13-4-0 (9 KOs)

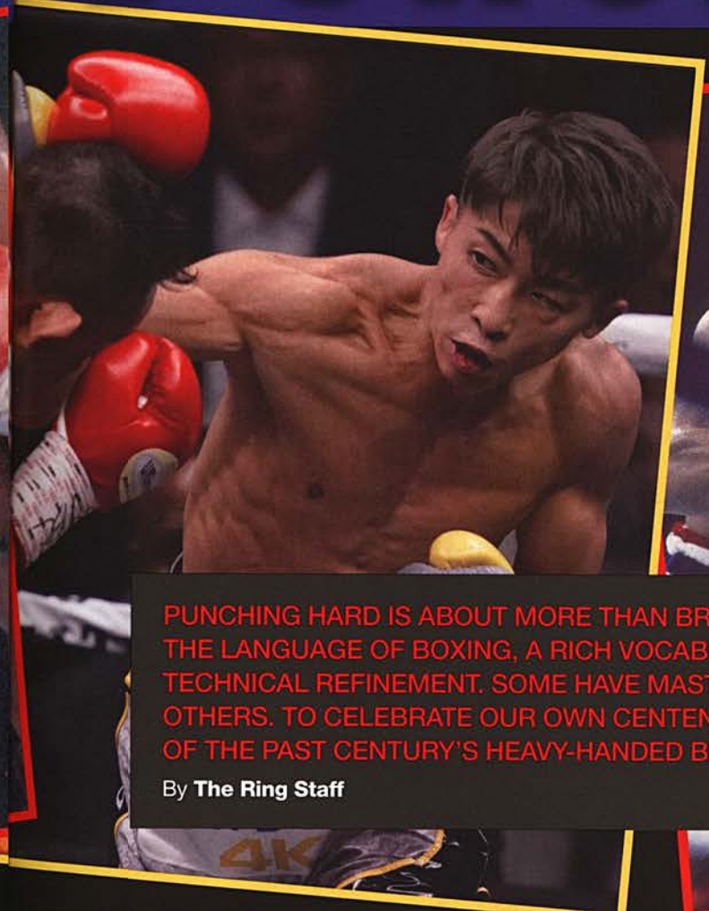


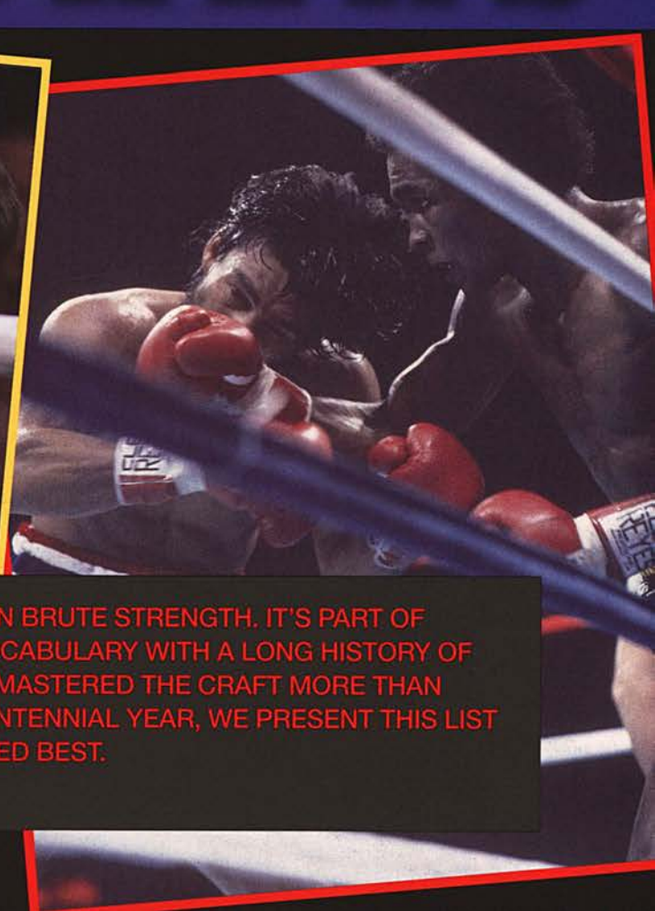


TOP 100 PUNCHERS



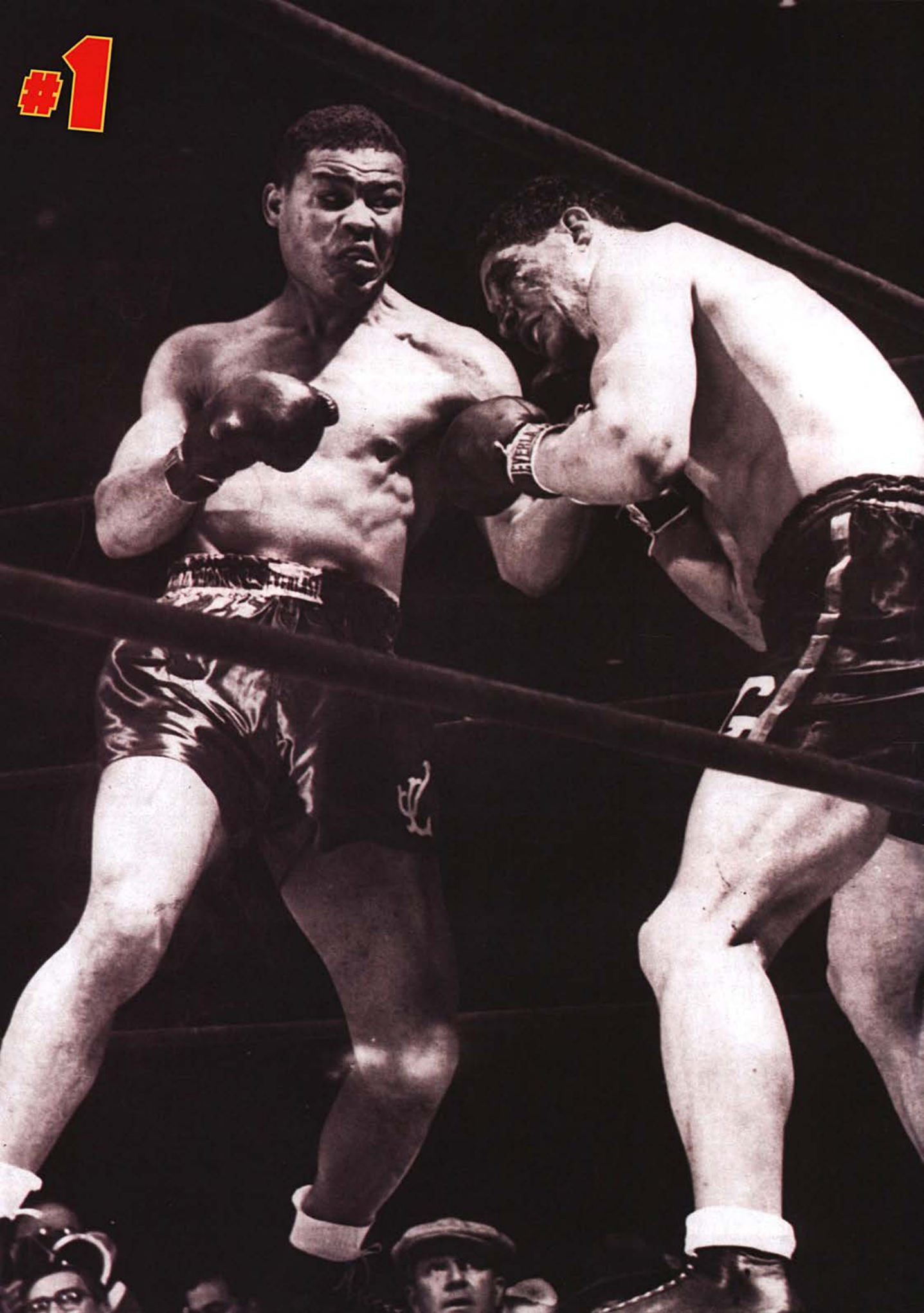






PUNCHING HARD IS ABOUT MORE THAN BRUTE STRENGTH. IT'S PART OF THE LANGUAGE OF BOXING, A RICH VOCABULARY WITH A LONG HISTORY OF TECHNICAL REFINEMENT. SOME HAVE MASTERED THE CRAFT MORE THAN OTHERS. TO CELEBRATE OUR OWN CENTENNIAL YEAR, WE PRESENT THIS LIST OF THE PAST CENTURY'S HEAVY-HANDED BEST.

By **The Ring Staff**


#1

JOE LOUIS (66-3, 52 KOs)

ACTIVE: 1934-1951

More than 10 years before Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in Major League Baseball, Joe Louis had established himself as a superstar. The Alabama-born, Detroit-raised puncher was a bona fide attraction two years before he knocked out James J. Braddock to become the second African American heavyweight champion in 1937.

Louis, who was paid $52 for his pro debut in July 1934, commanded six-figure paydays as a fast-rising contender in 1935 and 1936 ($240,833 vs. Max Baer and $125,535 for his first bout with Max Schmeling, according to *The Ring Boxing Encyclopedia*). He drew mixed crowds of 50,000, 60,000 and 70,000 to ballparks in Chicago and New York City in a largely segregated, systemically racist post-Depression America.

The fistic prodigy, who was developed by former prizefighter Jack Blackburn, was as embraced by white society as Jack Johnson, the first African American heavyweight champ, had been vilified.

Louis was handsome and as quiet and humble as Johnson had been flamboyant and bombastic, but the main reason for his popularity was his awesome punching power and his chilling proficiency in scoring knockouts.

When Louis put hands on his opponents, they almost always collapsed in broken heaps, and this formidable ability would command the public's fascination longer than any other heavyweight champion. Louis held the title from 1937 to 1949. He defended it 25 times (a 26th was recognized by the New York boxing commission but was essentially an exhibition against Johnny Davis) – a record in any division that still stands – with only four challengers lasting the distance.

Even before Louis won the title, boxing insiders, including powerful promoter Mike Jacobs, could see his potential to be Jack Dempsey's successor at the box office and as the most feared heavyweight in the sport.

The "Brown Bomber" knocked out his first Ring-rated opponent, Lee Ramage (TKO 8), in December 1934. By the end of 1935, he had stopped two other contenders, King Levinsky (TKO 1) and Paolino Uzcudun (TKO 4), as well as two former champs, Primo Carnera (TKO 6) and Baer (KO 4).

Levinsky admitted to being literally scared out of his wits *before* he stepped into the ring with Louis. Baer had had enough after four rounds, content to be counted out while on one knee. "I could have struggled up once more," he quipped after the fight, "but when I get executed, people are going to have to pay more than $25 a seat to watch it."

Louis was just as devastating and intimidating as Dempsey was, but their approaches to scoring knockouts were as different as night and day. Dempsey was like a hungry tiger, literally pouncing on his opponents, hell-bent on beating them into submission with haymakers. Louis was a stalking, methodical assassin. Patient and careful, but deadly accurate with compact shots. He didn't waste motion or punches.

Blackburn made sure that Louis, beautifully proportioned at 6-foot-1½ and 200 pounds, learned proper balance and punching mechanics. Instilled in Louis was the defensive hand-placement Johnson used so well, but Louis was also taught to deliver short punches in devastating three- and four-punch combinations like the legendary technicians that Blackburn faced in the ring, such as Sam Langford and Joe Gans.

Every punch Louis landed did damage, starting with his jab, a jolting left stick strong enough to knock seasoned fighters off-balance. He always followed the jab with a long-range right hand that instantly stunned opponents, enabling him to quickly close the distance and get inside, where he often brutally ended fights with left hooks – famous for only traveling six inches – uppercuts and body shots.

"He knew how to punch, when to punch and where to punch," Paul Andrews, a former light heavyweight contender who was managed and briefly trained by Louis during the 1950s, once told this writer.

Andrews' words were often repeated by a past generation of trainers committed to teaching the basics of punching.

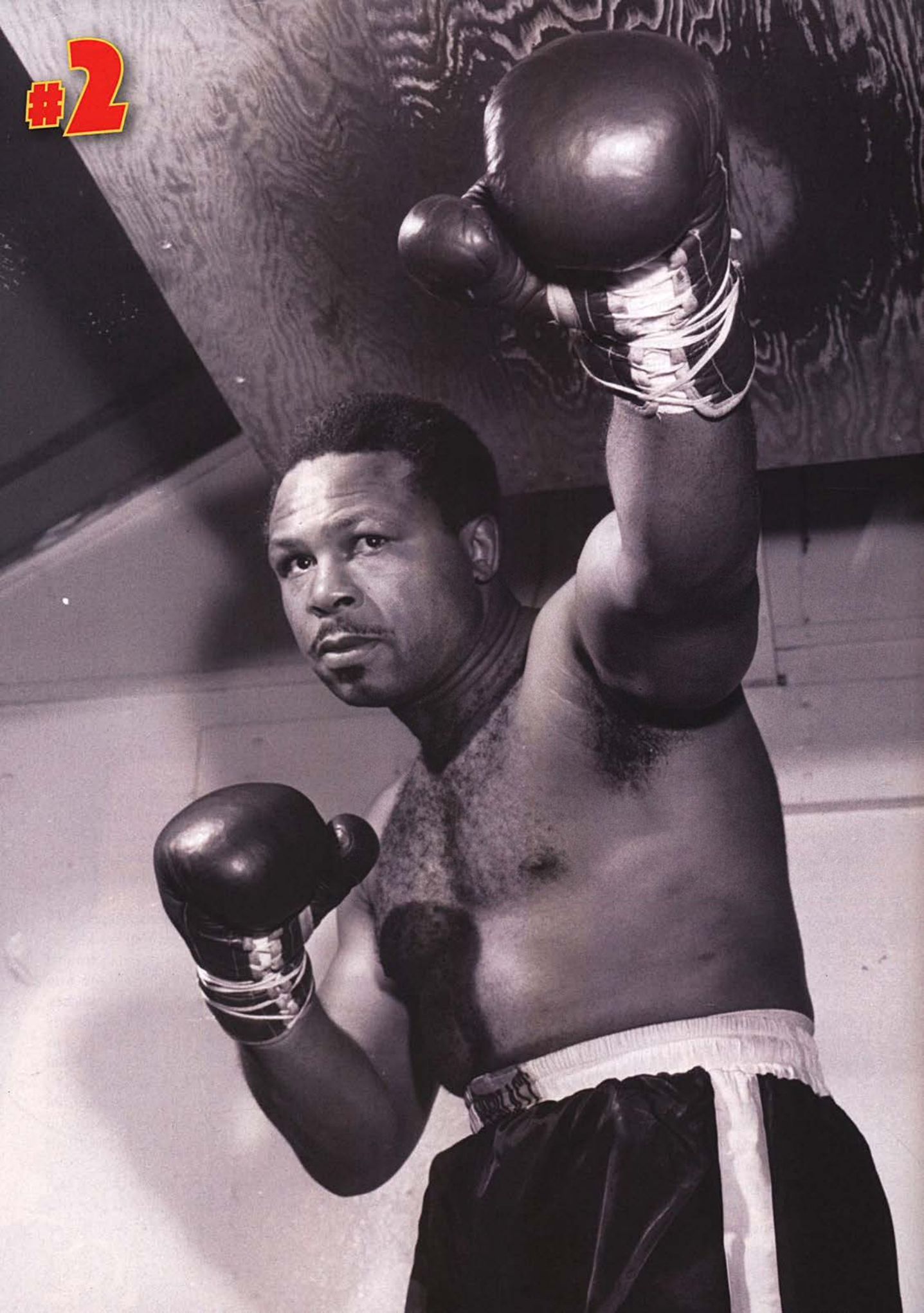
How to punch = proper technique. When to punch = timing. Where to punch = accuracy. Simple but fundamental. Louis had it down to a science. He knew how to get maximum leverage with every punch. He knew when to pull the trigger, and he knew the right spots on the body to target.

Louis wasn't perfect (although his offensive technique came close). His flat-footed stance enabled stick-and-movers, like Billy Conn and Jersey Joe Walcott, to trouble him. His single-minded hunt for the KO made him vulnerable in exchanges and susceptible to counterpunches. Louis was dropped by Braddock, Tony Galento, Buddy Baer and Walcott (three times in two bouts). He was dropped and stopped by a series of right hands from Schmeling in his first loss.

However, his mettle and pride forced him to get up from knockdowns, battle through tough fights and improve in return bouts. His vaunted power made sure he won all seven of his rematches by KO.

His most important rematch – a one-round destruction of Schmeling in 1938 against the backdrop of World War II – elevated him from crossover sports star to American hero. ★

BY DOUG FISCHER


#2

ARCHIE MOORE (186-23-10, 132 KOs)

ACTIVE: 1935-1963

Archie Moore recorded more knockouts than any prizefighter in history. Just how many stoppages he scored during his incredible 28-year pro career depends on the source, but most credible record-keeping publications list the total between 130 and 140 knockouts.

Whatever the true count is, it's astounding. Only a handful of boxers are in the 100+ knockouts club. Moore belonged to another club during his prime years. This one – which sportswriters called "Murderers' Row" – consisted of African American middleweights and light heavyweights who did not receive the title shots that their talent and accomplishments merited.

Murderers' Row included Jimmy Bivins, Charley Burley, Lloyd Marshall, Holman Williams, Cocoa Kid, Bert Lytell, Eddie Booker, Jack Chase, Nate Bolden, Oakland Billy Smith, Curtis Sheppard, Charley "Doc" Williams and Aaron Wade. Some – Bivins, Burley, Marshall and Holman Williams – were elite-level boxers who would one day join Moore in the Hall of Fame, despite being denied title shots. Most were dangerous contenders who lacked connections.

Moore fought them all and engaged in multi-fight series with most of them.

When Moore was making his name as a middleweight up-and-comer during the early 1940s, these were the tough and skillful fighters who managed to beat him or last the distance. Everybody else got knocked out by the gutsy Mississippi native who fought out of St. Louis early in his career before relocating to San Diego.

From 1940 to 1944, Moore, rated as high as the No. 4 middleweight by The Ring during this time, scored 21 stoppages in 34 bouts. The only fighters he didn't knock out in this span were Chase (W 10, W 15, L 15), Booker (D 12, KO by 8), Burley (L 10) and Bolden (W 10).

In 1945, Moore established himself as a top light heavyweight by scoring 10 KOs in 14 bouts, including Marshall (TKO 10), the legendary Cocoa Kid (KO 8) and Holman Williams (TKO 11). He also lost a 10-round decision to Williams and suffered a six-round stoppage to Bivins.

These were the experiences that helped Moore evolve from a two-fisted pressure fighter to a ring-savvy boxer-puncher worthy of his "Old Mongoose" moniker. Over the second half of the '40s, Moore developed a versatile style that included classic stick-and-move tactics and crafty infighting technique marked by his trademark crossarm defense, which enabled him to expertly block and counterpunch while camouflaging his powerful hooks and crosses. Moore was also an ambidextrous puncher from mid-range, delivering his shots from odd angles, often aimed at the body.

From 1946 to 1951, Moore continued the Murderers' Row round-robin, racking up knockouts while campaigning for a shot at the light heavyweight title, which was held by rugged Joey Maxim by the start of 1950. He lost three bouts to Ezzard Charles during this period, but he also stopped Bivins and "Doc" Williams – the one man to stop Maxim (via first-round KO) in 116 bouts – three times each.

Moore finally got his shot at Maxim in December 1952, four days after turning 39. If Maxim's management thought Moore was past his prime, they were sadly mistaken. Moore won a unanimous decision and reigned for the next nine years, moonlighting as a heavyweight.

Decision victories over Ring-rated heavyweight Nino Valdes in 1953 and 1955 sandwiched stoppages of tough contenders Bob Baker (TKO 9) and Bert Whitehurst (TKO 6), earning Moore a shot at the champ, Rocky Marciano.

The Rock was too strong and relentless for Moore, who bravely went out on his shield in the ninth, but not before scaring Marciano's fans by dropping the undefeated slugger in the second round.

Between the Valdes rematch and the Marciano fight in '55, Moore defended his light heavyweight title with a third-round KO of reigning middleweight champ Carl "Bobo" Olson. It was his last knockout of a truly notable opponent, but he remained light heavyweight champ and continued to defend the title against solid contenders, including a Canadian with a big right hand named Yvon Durelle.

Moore and The Fighting Fisherman engaged in one of the most dramatic light heavyweight title bouts of all time in Montreal in December 1958. Durelle dropped Moore three times in the wild opening round. Moore was decked hard by the first right Durelle landed and was seriously hurt, but he weathered the storm with guile gleaned from more than 200 prizefights. Moore was dropped again in the fifth, but by the middle rounds, his confidence grew as he timed the aggressive challenger with two-punch combinations.

The punching prowess that ended more than 100 fights inside the distance gradually took over as the Old Mongoose floored Durelle four times en route to an 11th-round stoppage, ensuring Moore's membership in one of boxing's most exclusive clubs: fighters who beat Father Time. ★

BY DOUG FISCHER

#3
EVERLAST

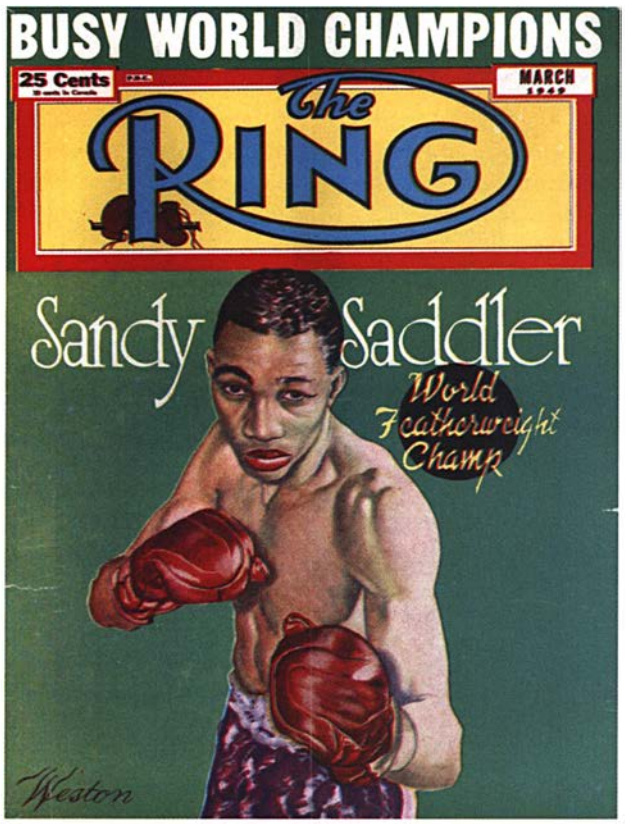
SANDY SADDLER (145-16-2, 104 KOs)

ACTIVE: 1944-1956

Most of the fighters in these rankings were/are superb boxers. Their skills were/are a major aspect of their punching prowess.

Sandy Saddler isn't among them. He's this high in the rankings because he was a go-getter. He fought often, he fought his ass off, and he let his hands go in pursuit of the knockout.

That's why there are 104 stoppages among his 145 wins. That's why he was the nemesis of arguably the greatest featherweight of all time. Which is not to say that Saddler couldn't box. The man had good technique. He was a complete fighter like all of the standouts of the 1940s. But Saddler didn't want to box. He wanted to fight.



Saddler was all about the Savage Science, not the Sweet Science. His bread and butter was freakish punching power, supported by a surprisingly strong and durable wiry frame and fueled by ruthless aggression. Despite possessing a 70-inch wingspan, Saddler preferred to work his brutal craft – which occasionally included roughhouse tactics – in close.

The Boston native of West Indian descent seemed born to fight. After 50 amateur bouts (mostly in the New York City area, where he grew up) all he needed was experience before taking on the best featherweights of the pro ranks, and he amassed it quickly, even by the stern standards of the 1940s.

Saddler turned pro at bantamweight in March 1944 and finished the year with 22 bouts under his belt (winning 19 of them but also suffering the lone stoppage loss of his 163-bout career, a third-round knockout to the more experienced Jock Leslie, in his second bout). Saddler won the final six bouts of '44 by KO as he matured into the featherweight division.

He fought 25 times in 1945, winning them all and scoring 18 knockouts. Another 15 bouts followed in 1946 before his breakout year. In 1947, Saddler, now a solid 10-round pro, climbed The Ring's featherweight rankings by winning 17 of 19 bouts, 13 by KO. Future lightweight champ and Hall of Famer Joe Brown (KO 3) was among his knockout victims, as were two Ring-rated fighters – Venezuelan standout Oscar Calles, who was stopped in five rounds in Caracas, and Cuban veteran Miguel Acevedo (KO 7), who was halted on cuts in New York City.

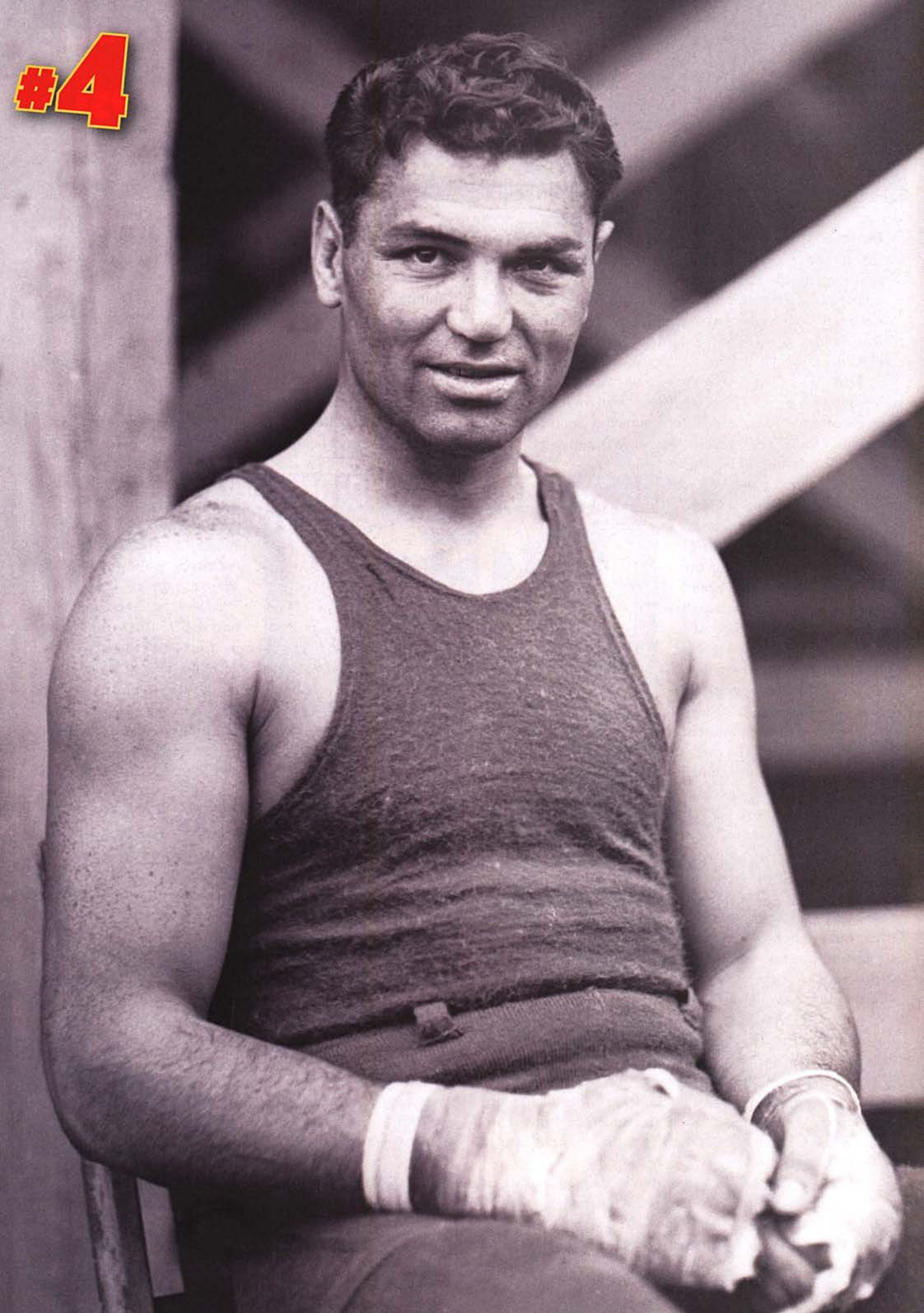
Saddler also held future lightweight champ and Hall of Famer Jimmy Carter to a 10-round draw that some observers thought he deserved to win. But as impressive as Saddler was in 1947, his moment of truth arrived the following year when he finally got a shot at featherweight champ Willie Pep.

Next to Sugar Ray Robinson, Pep was the most dominant boxer of the '40s. When Pep climbed through the ropes to defend his title against Saddler on October 29, 1948, he carried a mind-boggling 134-1-1 record into the ring. Saddler, a veteran of 94 bouts, wasn't intimidated by the winningest record in the sport or the man with the slipperiest style. Saddler dominated Pep from the opening bell, lacerating his face in the opening round, dropping him twice in the third and knocking him down for the count in the fourth.

Pep proved his greatness by regaining the championship in an epic rematch in December 1949, a grueling 15-round decision selected as The Ring's Fight of the Year, but Saddler won the brutal rubber match (TKO 8) and a foul-filled fourth bout (TKO 9), proving that his will was stronger than Pep's skill.

Winning three of four bouts against Pep is the stuff of legends, but Saddler was more than a rival to the "Will o' the Wisp." He took on the best featherweights, junior lightweights and lightweights of his era, knocking out a dozen Ring-rated fighters between 1947 and 1956, most notably future lightweight champs Paddy DeMarco (TKO 9) and Mexican standout Lauro Salas (TKO 9, TKO 6), as well as Filipino hero Flash Elorde (TKO 13), a future 130-pound champ and Hall of Famer. ★

BY DOUG FISCHER


#4

JACK DEMPSEY (53-6-8, 43 KOs)

CAREER: 1914-1927

Shortly after the conclusion of World War I, Dempsey would evolve into a sports superstar and cultural icon, as evidenced by his participation in boxing's first million-dollar gate (against Georges Carpentier in 1921). It's been over 100 years since "The Manassa Mauler" won the heavyweight championship of the world, but his incredible legacy has hardly diminished.

Born into abject poverty in Manassa, Colorado, in 1895, William Harris Dempsey was as far away from being a millionaire as one could possibly imagine. There were no elite amateur boxing programs to help young fighters hone their skills. Instead, Dempsey plied his trade fighting in bars and brothels, and became battle-hardened by taking on much bigger men.

Such encounters barely gave Dempsey enough money to survive. However, as his local fame and following increased, his finances improved. Having turned pro in relative obscurity, the future champ made the acquaintance of shrewd boxing manager Jack "Doc" Kearns, a former fighter himself, in 1917.

The Jack Dempsey era had officially begun.

The exciting young contender would become a big attraction in such boxing hotbeds as New York, San Francisco and New Orleans, but Kearns had him performing in several other cities. Word spread on this new power-punching assassin, and Dempsey delivered in the ring. Explosive stoppages over Bill Brennan (TKO 6), Fred Fulton (KO 1), Battling Levinsky (KO 3) and Gunboat Smith (KO 2) earned him a shot at the title.

Then-heavyweight champion Jess Willard was a goliath of his day. At 6-foot-6½, he was 5½ inches taller than Dempsey, and 58 pounds heavier at 245. The Kansas native had controversially dethroned the legendary Jack Johnson in 1915 – it was an unguarded secret that Johnson had taken a dive – and he'd had just one fight since.

Inactive and out of his depth, Willard didn't have a prayer.

On July, 4, 1919, in Toledo, Ohio, Dempsey was like a man possessed. He put the champion down seven times, and in those days the fighter scoring the knockdown wasn't required to go to the farthest neutral corner. As soon as a beaten and bruised Willard lifted his gloves off the canvas, Dempsey was there to blast him with an array of bone-crushing power shots. Willard retired on his stool at the end of Round 3, by which time he'd suffered a broken jaw, broken ribs and was missing several teeth.

Having worked so hard to reach the championship, Dempsey was in no mood to let it go. The knockouts continued apace in title defenses: Billy Miske (KO 3), Brennan (KO 12) and Carpentier (KO 4). However, after outpointing future Hall of Famer Tommy Gibbons (UD 15), Dempsey almost came unstuck against Luis Firpo. Having floored the Argentine brawler seven times in the opening round, Dempsey was caught by a powerful right that knocked him out of the ring. Visibly shaken, Dempsey was able to recover during the minute-long rest period and he finished Firpo off in the second. He'd faced serious adversity and prevailed.

Enter Gene Tunney.

A light heavyweight sensation – one of the best ever at the weight despite never becoming champion – Tunney was the complete antithesis of the ruthless Dempsey. Inside the ring, he was a cerebral boxer-mover with skills to burn. Outside of it, he was a polished and refined personality, well-read, and a friend of legendary playwright George Bernard Shaw.

Following the Firpo firefight, Dempsey had been out of the ring for over three years. He'd gotten himself married, tried his hand at acting, and boxing was now on the back burner. In hindsight, with his conditioning and timing jeopardized, the elusive and quick-thinking Tunney was not the best opponent to select following such a long hiatus.

Dempsey was on the front foot throughout, but the challenger used his aggression against him and busted up his face on the counter. Tunney sailed home to a 10-round unanimous decision win and was anointed the new champion before a record-setting fight crowd of 120,557 fans in Philadelphia.

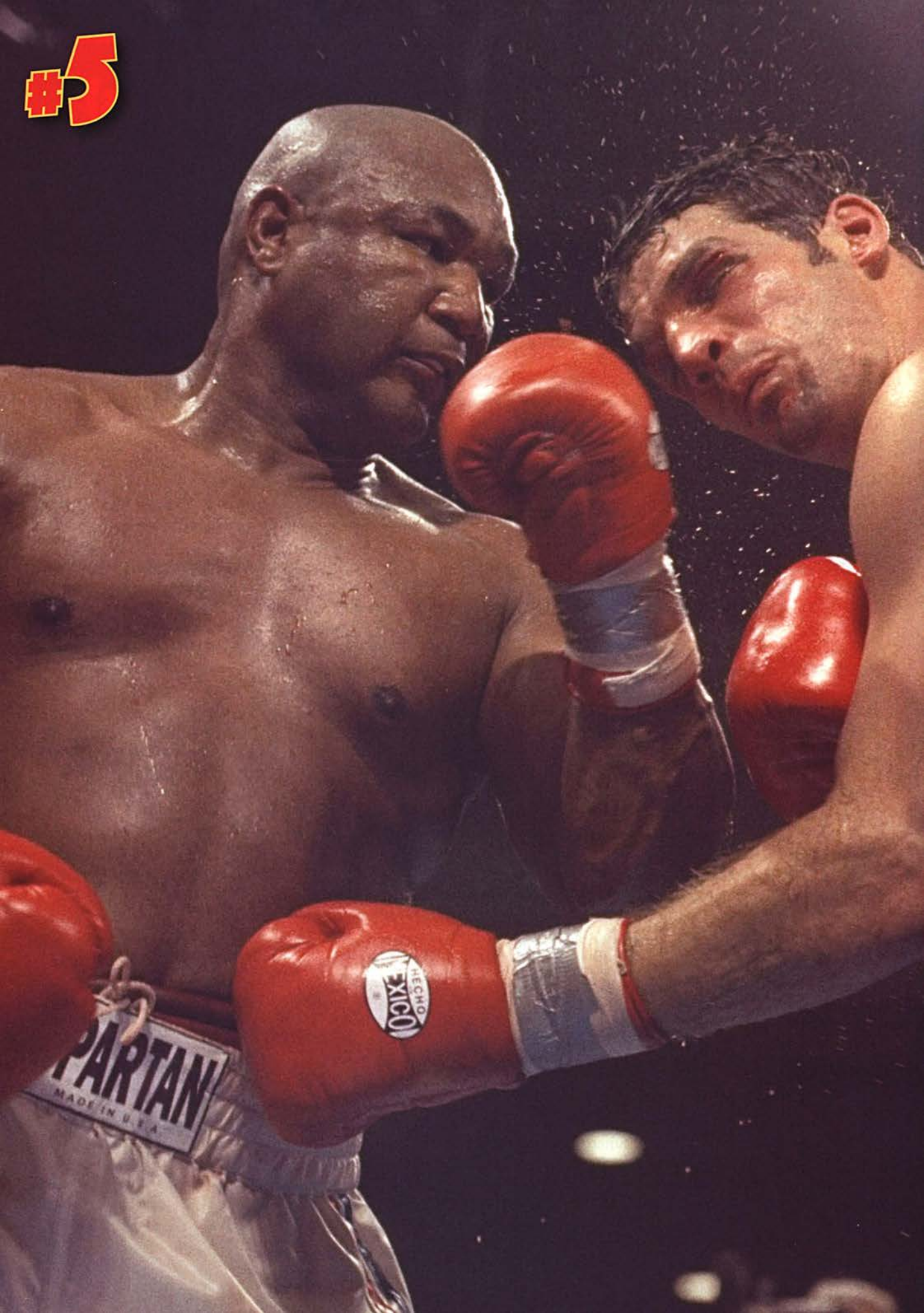
Desperate for revenge, Dempsey whipped himself into serious fighting shape. First, he scored a brutal seventh-round knockout over future champion Jack Sharkey, then immediately signed on for the Tunney rematch in Chicago. The return bout followed the same pattern, with Dempsey in hot pursuit and his gifted foe scoring well from the outside. In Round 7, however, Dempsey blasted Tunney to the canvas with a powerful two-fisted attack.

Time stopped – literally.

The lack of a neutral corner rule that had benefited Dempsey against Willard had since changed, and it now worked against him. After scoring the knockdown, the challenger hovered over Tunney and either ignored or couldn't hear repeated requests from referee Dave Barry to move to the neutral corner. Tunney was given precious extra seconds to recover, and the moment likely altered the course of heavyweight history. The champion got up, regained his senses, and boxed his way to another 10-round decision win.

Had Dempsey followed the rules, it's likely that he would have become boxing's first two-time heavyweight champion. As it stands, he is still one of the division's greatest-ever fighters and punchers. ★

BY TOM GRAY


#5
PARTAN
MADE IN U.S.A.
HECHO
EXICO

GEORGE FOREMAN (76-5, 68 KOs)

CAREER: 1969-1997

Twenty-five years retired, Foreman is best known to this generation for the immensely popular "Lean Mean Fat-Reducing Grilling Machine." However, during a legendary 28-year boxing career, it was the vast majority of his opponents who were cooked.

A troubled youth, Foreman turned to crime in the rough and poverty-stricken area of Houston's Fifth Ward. But despite being a bully and a mugger, the brooding Texan was intelligent enough to know that his life was spiraling out of control and committed himself to turning things around. At the age of 16, Foreman joined then-President Lyndon Johnson's Job Corps program and soon found boxing.

The youngster's crushing power was obvious immediately. Despite donning large gloves and headgear, sparring partners were knocked out effortlessly – often accidentally. Now stationed in California, Foreman was training under the watchful eye of adept coach Doc Broadus, who pegged him as a future heavyweight champion.

With just 22 amateur bouts under his belt, Foreman was selected as the U.S. heavyweight representative for the 1968 Olympic Games in Mexico. His power translated to the top international level with the menacing 19-year-old stopping two of three challengers en route to the final. His opponent in the gold medal round was decorated Lithuanian Jonas Cepulis, who had won over 200 amateur bouts. Youth trumped experience, however, as Foreman battered Cepulis all over the ring, forcing the referee to stop the contest in the second round.

Now armed with Olympic gold as well as state-of-the-art weaponry, Foreman turned professional to great acclaim in 1969. Fully determined to fulfill his destiny, he debuted on the undercard of Joe Frazier's heavyweight championship fight against Jerry Quarry and scored a third-round stoppage of Don Waldhelm at Madison Square Garden.

To give Foreman adequate time to develop in the paid ranks, the majority of his early opponents were undistinguished. Thirteen of his first 15 victims succumbed to a knockout defeat, but Foreman was tested by 90-fight veteran Gregorio Peralta, who extended the hotshot prospect 10 rounds before losing a unanimous decision. The following year, Foreman halted Peralta in the 10th. A third-round stoppage of former world title challenger George Chuvalo was also eye-catching and represented a significant step up in class.

By the time Foreman was rated the No. 1 contender, his record was 37-0 (35 KOs), but as impressive as those stats were, he would have to topple the fearsome Frazier to achieve heavyweight immortality.

It was one of the most ruthless performances in boxing history.

On January 22, 1973, in Kingston, Jamaica, Foreman floored "Smokin'" Joe six times en route to a sensational second-round stoppage triumph. The now-24-year-old had vaulted from prospect to contender to champion in less than four years, and hardened scribes were already labeling him "unbeatable."

The first defense came against unknown Puerto Rican Jose Roman in Tokyo. Completely overmatched, the challenger was floored twice and knocked unconscious by a devastating right uppercut in the opening round. It was a horrible mismatch, but Foreman's next opponent was considered a legitimate threat to the title.

Ex-marine Ken Norton had just split two close 12-round fights with Muhammad Ali and had broken The Greatest's jaw in the first encounter. The powerful Californian could match Foreman for size, and his body looked like he'd been carved out of granite. It mattered little. Foreman gave Norton the same treatment he'd given Frazier, blasting him out in two rounds in Caracas, Venezuela.

The champ was an absolute monster.

Ali was now 32 years old and had gone life-and-death with both Frazier and Norton. He'd avenged defeats to both but was nowhere near as dominant as Foreman had been against the same men. When the Foreman-Ali match was made, there were many who literally feared for the ex-champion's life.

Not for the first time, however, Ali pulled a miracle. He bluffed Foreman with an improvised rope-a-dope routine, absorbed everything coming his way and closed the show with a spectacular eighth-round knockout. This near-mystical showdown – perhaps boxing's most celebrated – confirmed Ali's legendary status while Foreman fell into a deep depression.

The ex-champ bounced back eventually with terrific wins over Ron Lyle (KO 5) and Frazier (TKO 5), but a shock 12-round unanimous decision loss to Jimmy Young in March 1977 sent Foreman into a decade-long retirement.

However, having learned the process of executing miracles from The Greatest himself, Foreman set about planning his own. In March 1987, he returned to boxing as a 38-year-old preacher with a substantial waistline and a happy-go-lucky persona. Despite being the subject of ridicule during the early stages of his comeback, it was Foreman who had the last laugh. He did suffer defeats to Evander Holyfield (UD 12) and Tommy Morrison (UD 12), but, at the age of 45 years old, Foreman scored a never-to-be-forgotten 10th-round knockout win over then-IBF and WBA titleholder Michael Moorer to become the oldest heavyweight champion in boxing history. ★

BY TOM GRAY

EARNIE SHAVERS

(74-14-1, 68 KOs)

ACTIVE: 1969-1995

Earnie Shavers is known best for one punch that didn't score a knockout.

That's because of how hard he hit Larry Holmes with an overhand right in their 1979 rematch. How hard Holmes hit the canvas. And how hard it still is to believe that Holmes somehow beat the count, fought back and escaped what seemed like imminent defeat, a moment unparalleled in the heavyweight division until Deontay Wilder-Tyson Fury 1 some 39 years later.

Why does that shot stand out? Because so many others could neither stand up to – nor stand back up from – Shavers' formidable power.

In his prime, before a retina injury suffered in the Holmes rematch, Shavers was 59-7-1 with 57 KOs – 23 KOs in Round 1, 11 in Round 2, and 10 in Round 3. His first 39 wins were all knockouts (with two losses mixed in).

Shavers separated foes from their legs, their senses or both. Many were low-level, but it wasn't just who he did it against. It was how. He remained dangerous even as he stepped up.

Shavers had to rely on power and will to make up for his late start in boxing at 22 and brief amateur career, turning pro at 25. He also needed to put opponents away before his own stamina problems and vulnerable chin did him in.

In 1973, Shavers stopped future contender Jimmy Young in less than three rounds; discombobulated former titleholder Jimmy Ellis in less than three minutes; but was wobbled, dropped and stopped by Jerry Quarry in one round.

Shavers floored Ron Lyle with a left hook in Round 2 in 1976, but it came at the end of the round. Lyle, who recovered and won in six, rated Shavers as an even bigger puncher than George Foreman.

Similar praise came from Muhammad Ali, who endured a 15-round battle in 1977. Shavers was "stronger than Joe Frazier and George Foreman," Ali said some time after. "I don't know why I picked on him this late in my career."

The biggest names of his era were reluctant to share the ring with him. Ali, Holmes and Ken Norton (finished in two minutes in 1979) did. Frazier and Foreman did not.

"I wanted nothing to do with Earnie Shavers," tweeted Foreman. "What a puncher."

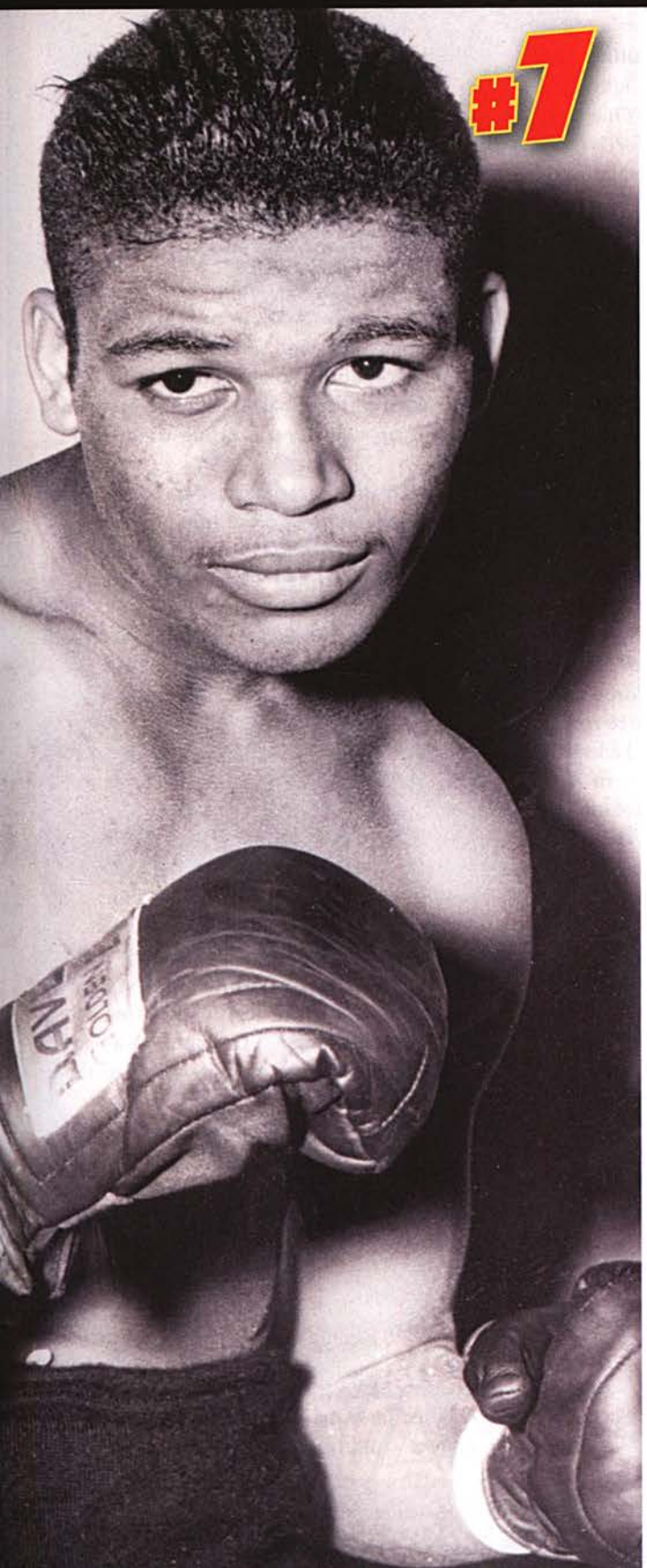
Holmes was wary of Shavers from their sparring sessions but needed to face him to earn a title shot. He wisely outboxed Shavers in 1978 but had to summon everything he had after hitting the mat in 1979, battling back and stopping Shavers four rounds later.

That was Shavers' second and last title shot. He never won the heavyweight championship, but he sure as hell earned the champions' respect. ★

NOS. 6-10 BY DAVID GREISMAN

SUGAR RAY ROBINSON (174-19-6, 109 KOs)

ACTIVE: 1940-1965



Power was part of the complete package that made Sugar Ray Robinson the greatest ever. Along with his skill, speed and savvy, these attributes all enhanced each other. He got your attention when he hit you. He got your respect. And more than 100 times, he got you out of there.

Robinson had power as a young lightweight prospect and welterweight, scoring 20 knockouts in his first 25 fights. He carried his power into the welterweight division, putting away former champion Fritzie Zivic (TKO 10) in 1942 and becoming the first to stop Maxie Berger (TKO 2) one month later. Two of his five title defenses at 147 ended within the distance: Jimmy Doyle (TKO 8) and Chuck Taylor (TKO 6) in 1947.

Throughout it all, Robinson remained incredibly busy with non-title fights within the 160-pound limit. By the time he fought Bobo Olson in 1950, Robinson was 114-1-2 with 74 KOs, a record that's even more impressive when you ponder how little time Sugar Ray allowed for his hands and body to heal. Olson, who'd never been stopped before, became victim number 75 (KO 12).

It was there, as he filled out into a full-fledged middleweight without compromising his other assets, that Robinson's power was even more apparent. He added a second lineal championship in 1951 by finishing Jake LaMotta (TKO 13) in the sixth and final clash of their storied rivalry – the famed St. Valentine's Day Massacre. It was the second time LaMotta was stopped, though it was truly the first when you consider that he admitted to throwing his fight against Billy Fox.

There was more to come. Robinson stopped Randy Turpin with a brutal barrage in their rematch (TKO 10) to regain the championship. Robinson went from hitting the canvas himself to stopping Rocky Graziano (KO 3) in 1952 with a single four-punch combination less than a minute later; the only other man to finish Graziano was Tony Zale. There were two more early nights against Olson (KO 2 and KO 4).

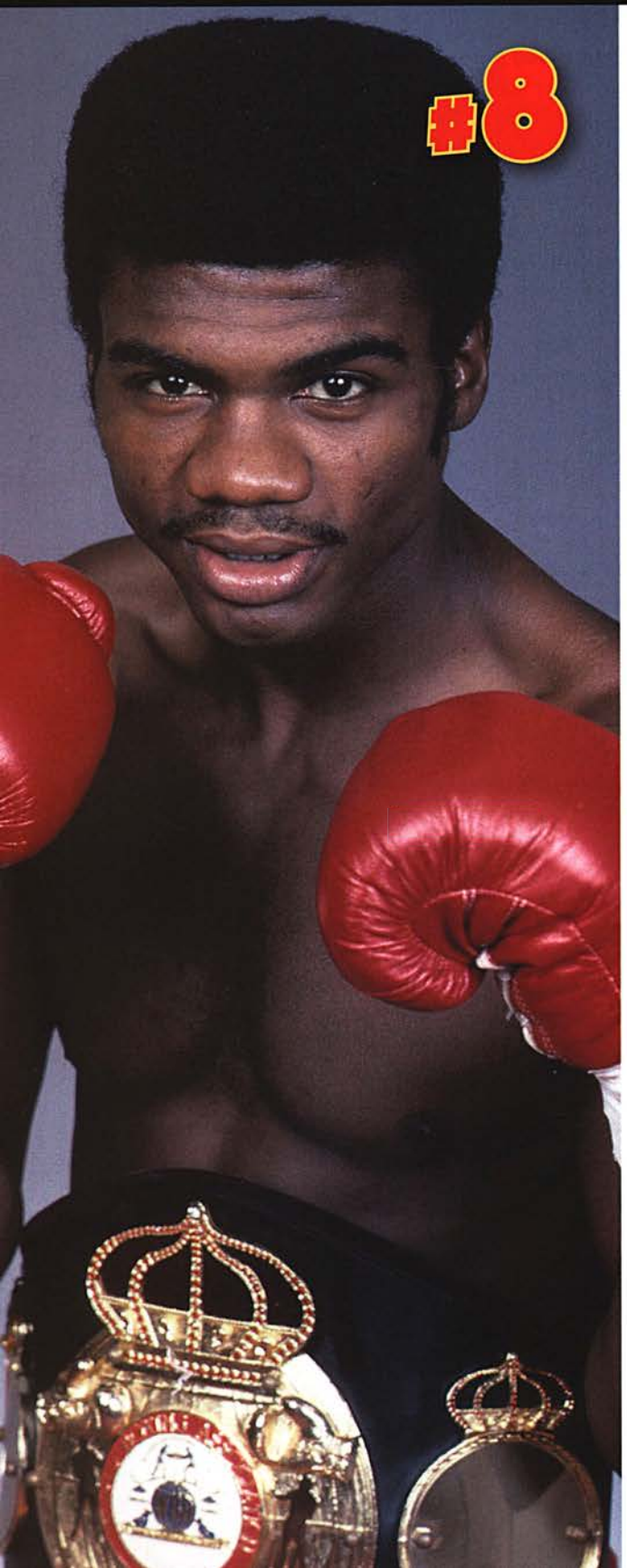
And, of course, there was the storied "Perfect Punch" – the short left hook Robinson walked Gene Fullmer into (KO 5) in their 1957 rematch to take back the middleweight throne once again. Fullmer had never been stopped before.

Robinson had a total of 21 victories, eight by way of knockout, against fighters who would go on to be inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame. Those knockouts came against Zivic, LaMotta, Turpin, Graziano, Olson (thrice) and Fullmer.

Boxers whose styles normally protected them from being knocked out still found themselves looking up at the lights. That's what happens when some of the best share the ring with the best ever, pound for pound. ★

JULIAN JACKSON (55-6, 49 KOs)

ACTIVE: 1981-1998



Julian Jackson didn't just bring the thunder. He was a lightning bolt. One zap was all it took.

One zap took away In Chul Baek's legs. One zap had Terry Norris completely out on his feet. And one zap dropped Herol Graham for a count that could've gone to 100.

"What a shot," Graham marveled years later. "It would've knocked a horse out. And I was the horse."

Jackson's style was made for his power, and his power was made for the highlight reels. The counter right from hell against Graham has played for more than 30 years. He had supreme confidence that he would land something big. That's because he was supremely capable of making it happen.

He could come forward and pressure you. Or Jackson could time you and set up counters, looping them from unexpected angles.

Some tried to stay away from him. Some tried to bang away with him. That latter approach proved the most effective – Jackson's six losses all came within the distance. In 55 career victories, only six heard the final bell. Most of them came either very early or very late in Jackson's career.

When the junior middleweight contender had his first world title shot, challenging Mike McCallum in 1986, Jackson had scored KOs in 27 of his 29 victories, 20 of them in the first three rounds.

Jackson took it to McCallum in Round 1, only to be taken out in Round 2. He fared much better against Baek for McCallum's vacant belt in 1987 (TKO 3).

His first defense, against Buster Drayton (TKO 3), is also highlight-reel worthy. So, too, were subsequent defenses versus Francisco de Jesus (KO 8) and Norris (TKO 2). They all toppled dramatically. The lightning bolt was also a lightswitch.

The trend continued when Jackson faced Graham for a vacant middleweight title in 1990. As with the Norris fight, he came from behind for the win. Norris had used boxing and fast flurries to bother Jackson in Round 1. Graham's awkward style and upper body movement frustrated Jackson for the first three heats.

Graham got too confident, backing Jackson into a corner, throwing one left cross, then another. Jackson timed the second. Graham folded backward, his head crashing into the mat.

Jackson went on to make four successful defenses (KO 1, TKO 1, TKO 5, and a rare UD 12 over Thomas Tate) before running into Gerald McClellan in 1993. McClellan put Jackson down (TKO 5) and then finished him even faster in their 1994 rematch (KO 1).

"He was a natural puncher like myself. I knew it and he knew it," Jackson recalled later on. "I said the one who gets hit first is gonna go down – and I guess I was the one that got hit first." ★

NOS. 6-10 BY DAVID GREISMAN

#9

RUBEN OLIVARES

(89-13-3, 79 KOs)

ACTIVE: 1965-1988

To face Ruben Olivares was to stand in with a wrecking ball. He came at you with plenty of forward momentum and heavy hooks to the midsection and head. Opponents either crumbled or did everything possible to avoid taking serious structural damage.

It's easy to understand why Olivares, a fan-friendly fighter with a penchant for body shots, became a star in his native Mexico. Turning pro as a teen, Olivares fought his first 42 bouts there, going 41-0-1 with 39 KOs. Among his victims during that stretch: former flyweight champ Salvatore Burruni, who turned his back in the third round after eating a left uppercut and hook to the head.

Olivares continued toward a title shot. He took out Jose Medel (KO 8) and Takao Sakurai (TKO 6), who'd both been sturdier when in with Lionel Rose. Olivares then dethroned Rose in 1969 for the bantamweight championship. What started off competitive ultimately became less so. Olivares scored one knockdown amid heavy exchanges in Round 2, then continued the onslaught until two more knockdowns sealed the deal in Round 5.

Olivares defended against Alan Rudkin, usually steady but done this night in two, and Chucho Castillo (UD 15). He lost on cuts (TKO 14) to Castillo in a rematch, then regained the championship in their 1971 rubber match (UD 15). Two more successful defenses brought two more KOs.

Fighting at featherweight in 1973, Olivares gave Bobby Chacon his first loss (TKO 9), then won the vacant WBA title a year later over Zensuke Utagawa (KO 7). Alexis Arguello soon ended that reign (KO 13), but Olivares quickly rebounded. His hands were far too heavy and accurate for a weight-drained Chacon (TKO 2) to handle in a rematch for the WBC belt in 1975.

Olivares lost narrowly to David Kotey (SD 15) three months later and wrapped the year by trading knockdowns before losing (KO 7) to Danny Lopez.

"Ruben Olivares was one of the hardest punchers I fought," Lopez told The Ring years later. "I felt every shot he landed on me."

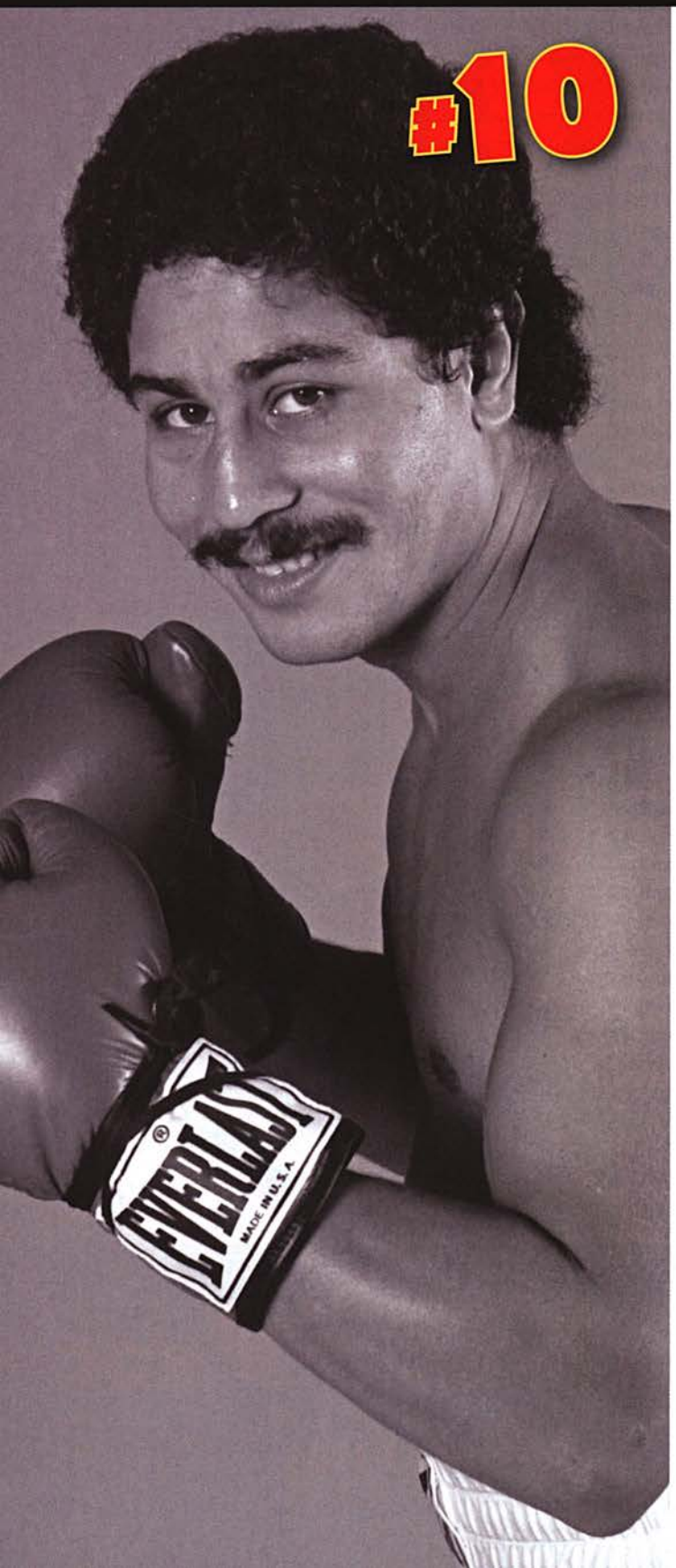
By that time you could say that Olivares' best days were past him, though he fought on consistently through 1981, then made a pair of returns in 1986 and 1988. And even after dropping a decision in a third fight against Chacon in 1977, Olivares still carried enough power to give a young fighter named Jose Luis Ramirez a rude awakening.

Ramirez was 19 years old and 43-1 with 36 KOs. His lengthy career ultimately included a lightweight title win and bouts against such names as Alexis Arguello, Hector Camacho, Julio Cesar Chavez, Ray Mancini, Pernell Whitaker and Edwin Rosario. The wrecking ball left quite an impression (TKO 2).

"[Olivares] was the only fighter who knocked me out in 111 fights," Ramirez would say. "He was very smart and hit very hard." ★

WILFREDO GOMEZ (44-3-1, 42 KOs)

ACTIVE: 1974-1989



You don't get a nickname like "Bazooka" without having the big guns in your arsenal. Wilfredo Gomez had a pair of hand cannons, the kind that blasted through nearly everyone no matter their level.

Usually knockout artists find their power has less effect as they step in against fighters with better skills and tougher chins. That's not what happened for most of Gomez's career. Instead, he remained relentless, swinging those sledgehammers until his opponents broke down or dropped down, the knockout streak continuing unabated.

Gomez was 15-0-1 with 15 KOs when he entered his first title fight in front of his adoring Puerto Rican fans, unseating junior featherweight Dong Kyun Yum (KO 12) in 1977 for the lineal championship. Yum had never been stopped before. And that was just the beginning. Over the next four years, every single one of Gomez's 13 successful defenses ended early – including a big win (TKO 5) over Carlos Zarate, the reigning bantamweight titleholder and future Hall of Famer who came in at 52-0 (51 KOs).

That run was paused as Gomez went up to 126 and fell short (KO 8) against champion Salvador Sanchez. "Bazooka" soon returned to 122, where the destruction resumed in an impressive eight-month span in 1982. He took out four more foes with four more KOs, the last being a big one over former 118-pound titleholder and eventual IBHOF inductee, Lupe Pintor.

"He was very tough. He was like a train, like me," Pintor later told The Ring. "It was like a train clash. Unfortunately, in the 14th round, I got hit."

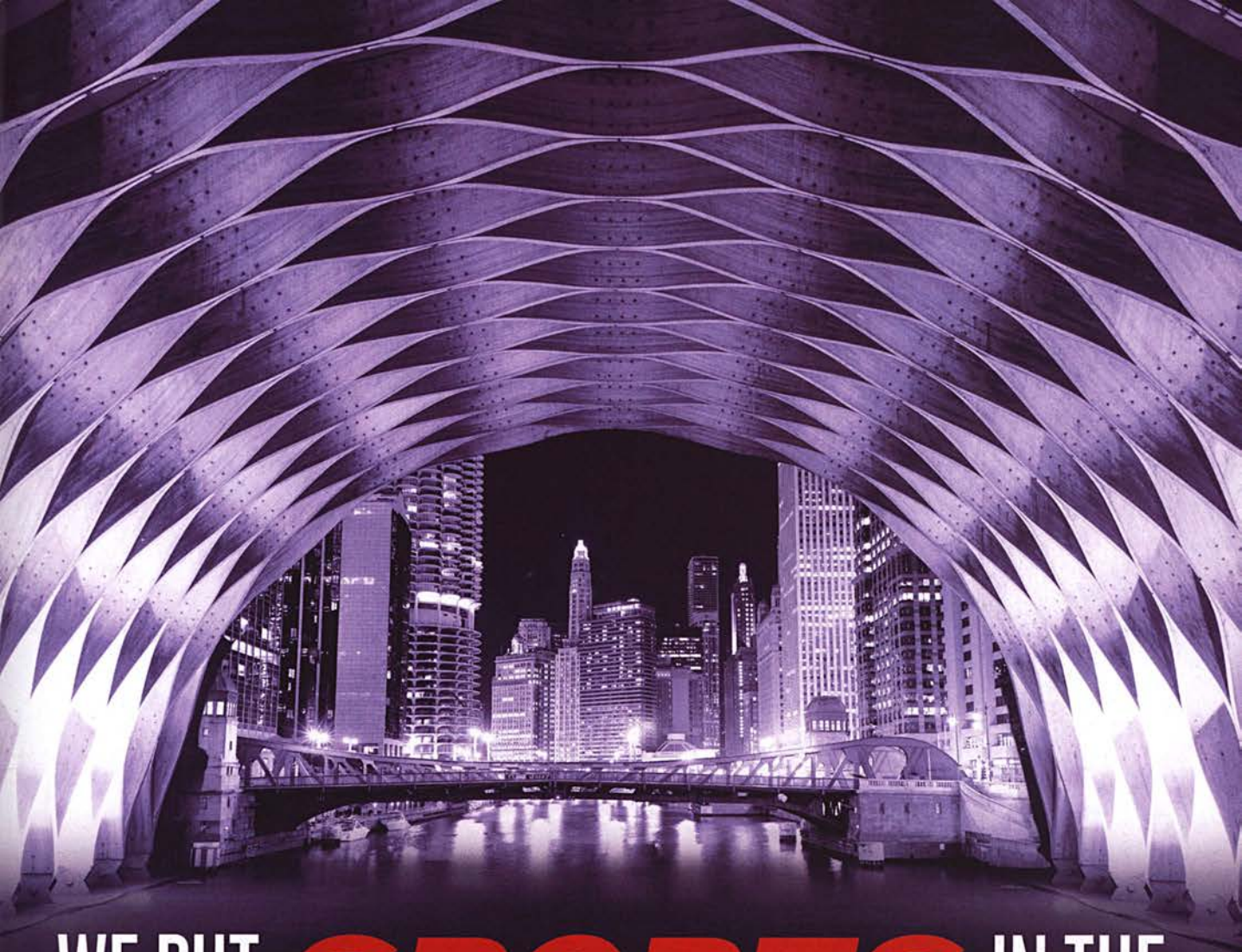
That's 18 title fights at junior featherweight, including an unparalleled 17 defenses, all ending by KO with Gomez's gloves in the air. That period from 1977-1982 was the best stretch of his career. He did go on to capture titles in two more divisions, though his power wasn't as prominent and his reigns weren't anywhere near as prolonged.

Gomez beat Juan Laporte (UD 12) in 1984 for a featherweight belt, then lost it in his next bout to Azumah Nelson (KO 11). He moved up to junior lightweight and added a second lineal title, defeating Rocky Lockridge (MD 12) in 1985. Again, Gomez's first defense was his last; he fell to Alfredo Layne (TKO 9).

Gomez added two more knockouts before hanging up his gloves for good. That meant the wins over Laporte and Lockridge were his sole victories to go to the scorecards. There was the draw in his first fight and the three KO losses.

That's what you could expect from "Bazooka." Either he'd blast out his opposition or he'd go down firing. ★

NOS. 6-10 BY DAVID GREISMAN



WE PUT *SPORTS* IN THE *SPOTLIGHT*

BRANDING, CONSULTING, MARKETING, PUBLICITY

GET IN TOUCH

BERNIE BAHRMASEL

DOUBLE B SPORTS

MERCHANDISE MART, SUITE 921, CHICAGO, IL

+1 773 592-2986

BERNIEBAHRMASEL@YAHOO.COM.

DOUBLE B SPORTS

BEST LEFT HOOKERS

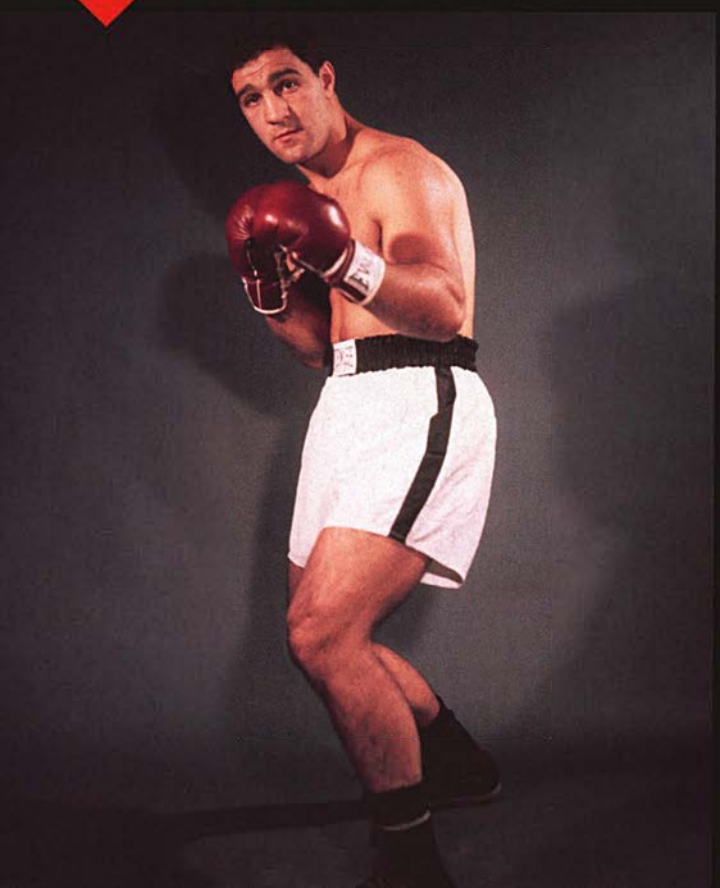
Ten of the best head-swivelers in boxing (and iconic fights where you can see them demonstrating their mastery of the non-linear attack)

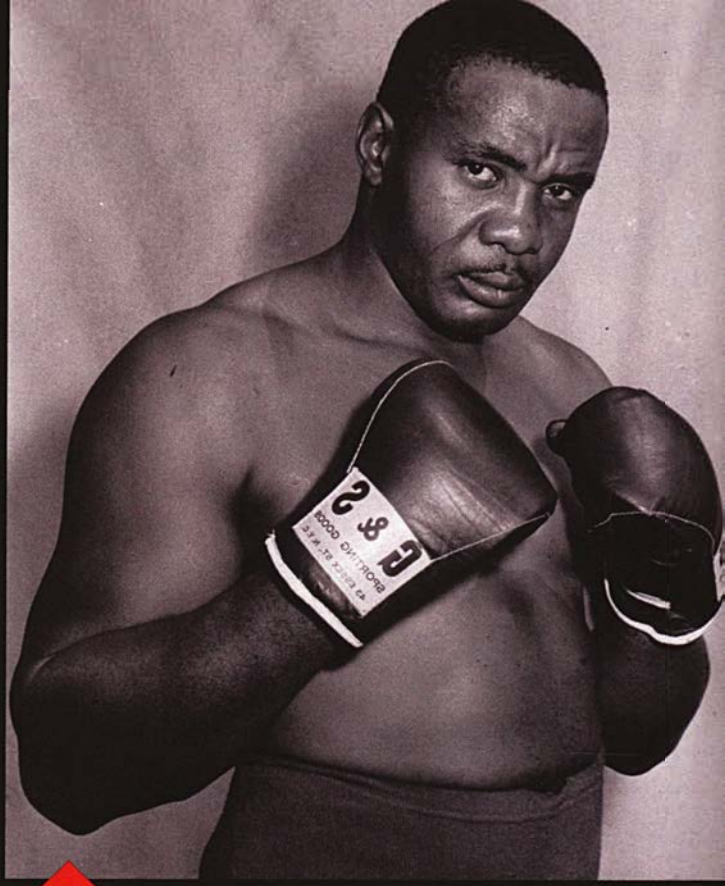
- **JOE FRAZIER** (vs. Jimmy Ellis, Bob Foster, Muhammad Ali 1)
- **NONITO DONAIRE** (vs. Vic Darchinyan 1)
- **FELIX TRINIDAD** (vs. Yori Boy Campas, Fernando Vargas, William Joppy)
- **BOB FOSTER** (vs. Dick Tiger, Mike Quarry, Vicente Rondon)
- **SUGAR RAY ROBINSON** (vs. Gene Fullmer 2)
- **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** (vs. Rafael Ruelas, Oba Carr, Fernando Vargas)
- **JERSEY JOE WALCOTT** (vs. Ezzard Charles 3)
- **JOE LOUIS** (vs. Max Baer)
- **PIPINO CUEVAS** (vs. Angel Espada 1, Pete Ranzany)
- **ROY JONES JR.** (vs. Thomas Tate, Tony Thorton, Montell Griffin 2)

DICK MORSEMAN/NEWSDAY RM

#11 ROCKY MARCIANO
(49-0, 43 KOs) • ACTIVE 1947-1955

Unorthodox and a brutal puncher, Marciano could always rely on "Suzie Q," the ring sobriquet for his game-changing right hand, no more in evidence than his winning of the world heavyweight title from Jersey Joe Walcott in September 1952. Dropped in the first and controlled by the savvy champion for 12 rounds, Rocky pulled out that right hand 33 seconds into the 13th – a short right to the jaw. Walcott was felled like he had been shot, his left arm hooked over the middle rope, for one of Rocky's most memorable moments, beginning his three year-reign as undefeated champion. "The Brockton Blockbuster," standing just 5-foot-10, was an explosive puncher, his natural physique enhanced by his interest in weightlifting in his youth, working out with homemade equipment, and later under the guidance of Charles Atlas. His strength was also enhanced through his early days laboring on the railroads and ditch-digging. Marciano won his first 16 bouts by knockout and ended his career with stoppages against Joe Louis, Walcott (twice), Ezzard Charles (in their rematch) and Archie Moore. To land punches, you need to be in range, and "The Rock" – aptly named with his granite chin – would walk indestructibly through punches to reach opponents. A fierce finisher with no fear, he had killer instinct and was happy to hit arms and torsos on his way to stopping his rivals, only five of whom lasted to the final bell (Ted Lowry did it twice).



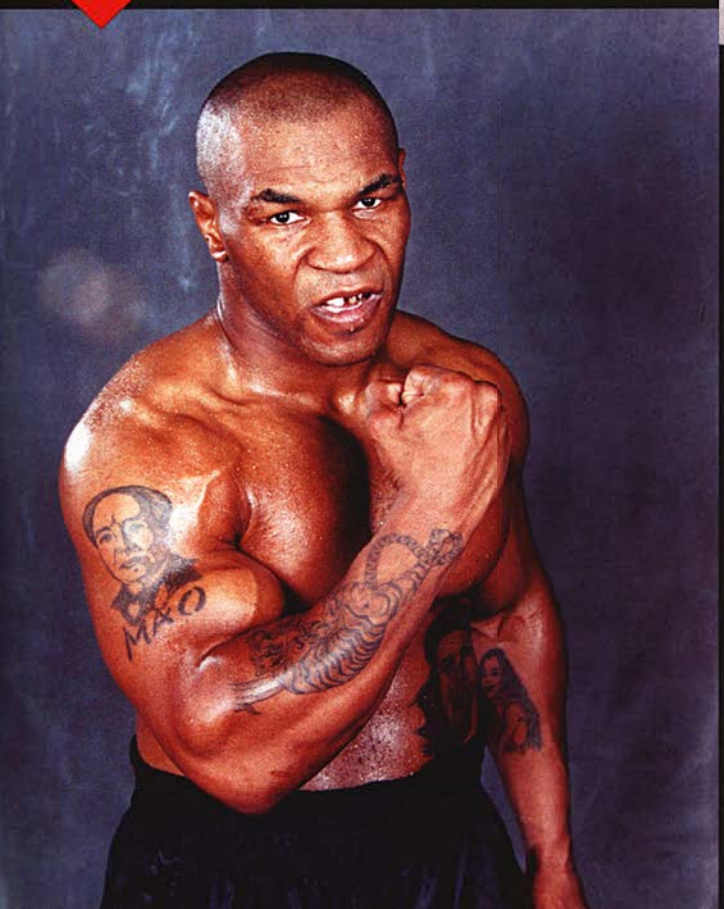


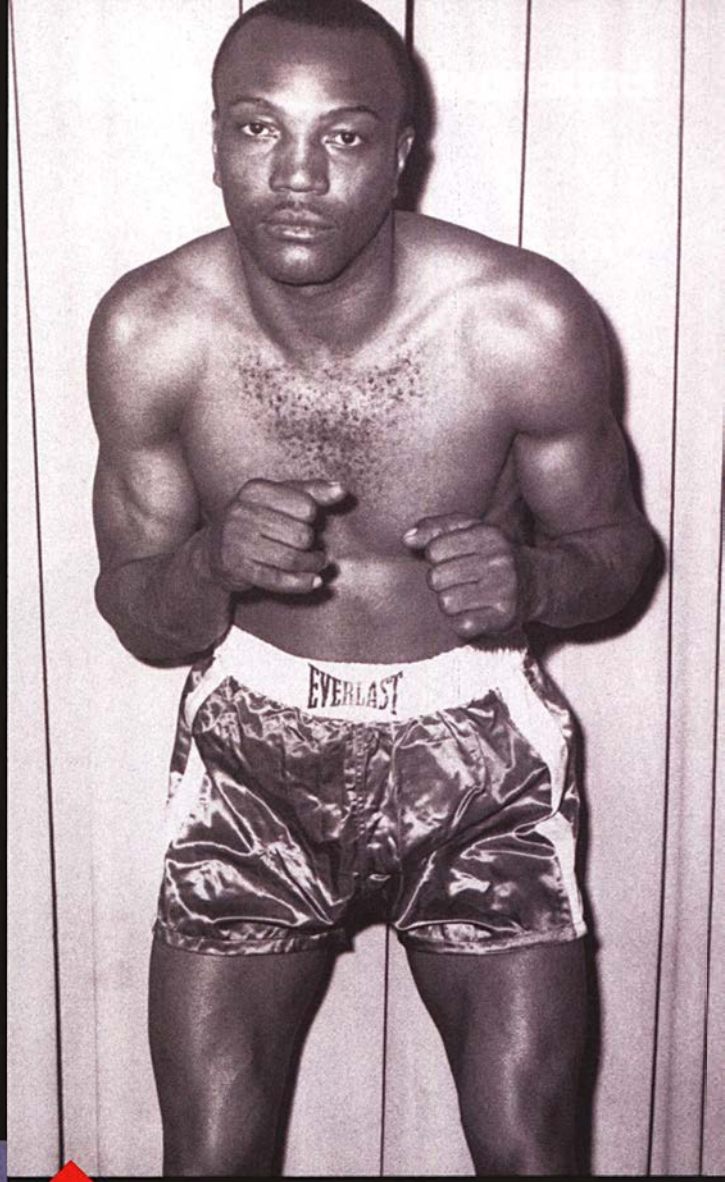
#12 SONNY LISTON
(50-4, 39 KOs) • ACTIVE 1953-1970

Sonny Liston's life was as mysterious as his menacing hands. One of 25 siblings, Liston fled rural Arkansas at the age of 13 to live with his mother in St. Louis. He spent more time in the streets than in school and found the troubles that come with such a life. An armed robbery conviction landed him in the Missouri State Penitentiary, where he was introduced to boxing. No stranger to crime before he turned pro (he worked for racketeers as an intimidator and enforcer) his connection to organized crime was no secret as his life and career progressed. However, his punching prowess is unquestionable. Liston's mean, moody aura added to his physicality. Liston had an astounding, powerful physique. He stood 6-foot-1, had an 84-inch reach, and had massive fists that measured 15 inches around, reputed to be the largest of any heavyweight champion. And he put those huge paws to devastating use. Everything came off his left hand, a ramrod punch that sent his opponents' heads buffeting back, to set up his deadly club of a right hand or powerful hook. He knocked out 39 of his 50 victims in the ring, including the feared Cleveland "Big Cat" Williams, whom he bested twice (TKO 3, TKO 2). He also stopped top-10 contenders Wayne Bethea (TKO 1), Mike DeJohn (TKO 6), Roy Harris (TKO 1) and Zora Folley (KO 3). Notably, Liston flattened Floyd Patterson twice by first-round knockout in back-to-back title bouts. His undoing was meeting one of the smartest fighters in history – Muhammad Ali. As the adage goes, a boxer beats a puncher … and Ali proved too much. Twice. It was to signal the end of Liston's brief but dominant reign.

#13 MIKE TYSON
(50-6, 44 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1985-2005

Mike Tyson's reign of terror belies the fact that his style was unique and innately brilliant. He may have created an invincible aura for a period of time – no socks, no robe, a force of nature who dominated the heavyweight division in the 1980s with knockout power that made him a global attraction and the self-styled "Baddest Man On The Planet" – but there was method behind the mayhem. With a come-forward, bobbing, peek-a-boo style to get inside, Tyson was able to unleash hooks and uppercuts as he transferred his weight with brutal effect. From there, Tyson could unleash everything – hooks with either hand from various angles, vicious uppercuts – as he went head-hunting. A very short heavyweight by modern standards, that style and his ferocious intent made him an irresistible star. His first 19 fights were won by knockout, 12 in the first round, in the first year of his professional career, and in 1986, 20-year-old "Iron Mike" became the youngest heavyweight champion ever when he knocked out Trevor Berbick in the second round. Tyson's popularity peaked in 1988 with a brutal knockout of Michael Spinks in 91 seconds, when Tyson was one of the world's most famous people. He was involved in one of the craziest stories ever to transpire in boxing (biting off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear in 1997) and one of the biggest upsets in the history of sports (being KO'd himself by Buster Douglas in 1990), but his star waned as opponents figured him out. But at his peak, Tyson was one of the most destructive and overwhelming combination punchers ever to enter the ring.





#14 BOB FOSTER
(56-8-1, 46 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1961-1978

So dominant was Bob Foster that the long, angular fighter who reigned as light heavyweight champion for six years (1968-1974) challenged the top heavyweights of his era. Defeats to Joe Frazier and Muhammad Ali demonstrated that he was simply not big enough to compete with the best of the glamour division. But at 175 pounds, where it took him eight years to get a title shot, Foster's piercing, rangy jab, followed by power in both hands up close, made him a near-perfect punching practitioner. One of many highlights in a record-setting career of 14 title defenses was Foster's KO of Nigeria-born idol Dick Tiger in the fourth round in May 1968, when he claimed the crown with a big left hook to the jaw, short and sweet, knocking out Tiger for the only time in his 81-fight career. Foster had a 79-inch reach and a phenomenal jab, but his left hooks could put opponents to sleep. He landed it to the jaw of challenger Mike Quarry at the end of the fourth round of their fight in 1972, leaving Quarry out cold. Trained by the great Eddie Futch, he also trounced WBA titleholder Vicente Rondon in two brutal rounds.

#15 THOMAS HEARNS
(61-5-1, 48 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1977-2006

He was known as "The Hitman" for good reason. Hearns claimed victories in his first 17 fights by knockout. The Detroit star recorded 48 KOs in his 67-fight career, including, of course, his stoppage of Roberto Duran, the only knockout defeat of the Panamanian's career while at the top level, brutally dismantling his underprepared foe with devastating right hands in two rounds. Hearns' punching power – plus his tenacity, speed, height and telescopic reach – carried him to winning titles in five weight divisions, the first man to do so. With a superb upper-body physique, the looseness of his muscles typified the skills of a power puncher. Fast and mobile, he was once described as "a fighting machine who might have been built by a committee." The only aspect that let him down, though later in his career, was his chin. His tactics in the famous fight with Marvelous Marvin Hagler were reckless and suicidal in many ways. Yet it is a fight that has also immortalized his courage, and it was born of knowing just how destructive the Kronk Gym legend could be with his hands.

#16 DEONTAY WILDER
(42-2-1, 41 KOs) · ACTIVE: 2008-PRESENT

Deontay Wilder is simply one of the biggest single-punch knockout artists in the history of the heavyweight division. A raw, unorthodox stalker, the 6-foot-7 Wilder is known – and perhaps feared – for his exceptional power. His punches, notably his straight right hand and the left hook, have accounted for 41 knockouts in his 42 career victories, dispatching every opponent he has faced (he followed a decision win over Bermane Stiverne with a first-round KO in the rematch) apart from Tyson Fury. The Alabamian's knockout-to-win percentage stands at 97.6 percent – 69.2 percent in title bouts – with 20 knockouts in the first round. Until losing the WBC crown in the trilogy of contests with Fury, Wilder had defended the title 10 times in five years, including a chilling first-round KO of 2012 U.S. Olympian Dominic Breazeale and a one-punch, seventh-round knockout of perennial contender Luis Ortiz in 2019 (the latter won The Ring's KO of the Year award).

#18 ALEXIS ARGUELLO
(77-8, 62 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1968-1995

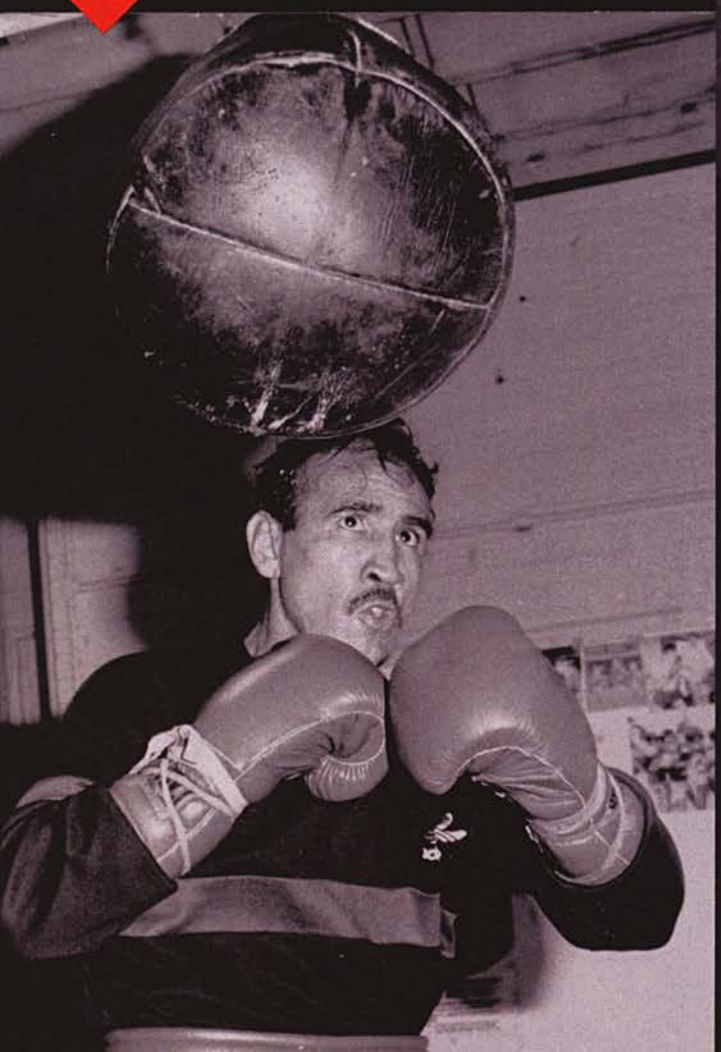
"El Flaco Explosivo" ("The Explosive Thin Man") was a poker-faced stalker with textbook technique and fight-ending power in both hands. "Bring me the best," the Nicaraguan would say, "and I will knock them out." Oh, and he did. Arguello started early, a professional aged 16, boxing for $10 a bout. He was tall at 5-foot-9 and an excellent body-puncher with an armory of brutal hooks. In his 40th fight, Arguello knocked out Mexican ring master Ruben Olivares to win the WBA featherweight crown in 1975, adding the Ring championship three fights later against Rigoberto Riasco. He took his punching power up to junior lightweight in 1978, stopping Alfredo Escalera in 13 rounds in "The Bloody Battle of Bayamon," leaving Escalera with a broken nose and cuts above his eyes. They met again in 1979. Escalera was behind after 12 and was stopped again in the 13th. Arguello was a smart boxer, combining clever ring skills with his combinations and taking the opportunity to bulldoze his opponents if the pattern of a fight needed to change. Those skills and punching prowess allowed him to become the first fighter in history to attempt becoming a four-weight world champion, but he was outgunned by Aaron Pryor in two junior welterweight title fights, losing in the 14th and 10th rounds. There are weight divisions for a reason. But it was stamina that cost him against a naturally bigger fighter in Pryor, not punching power.

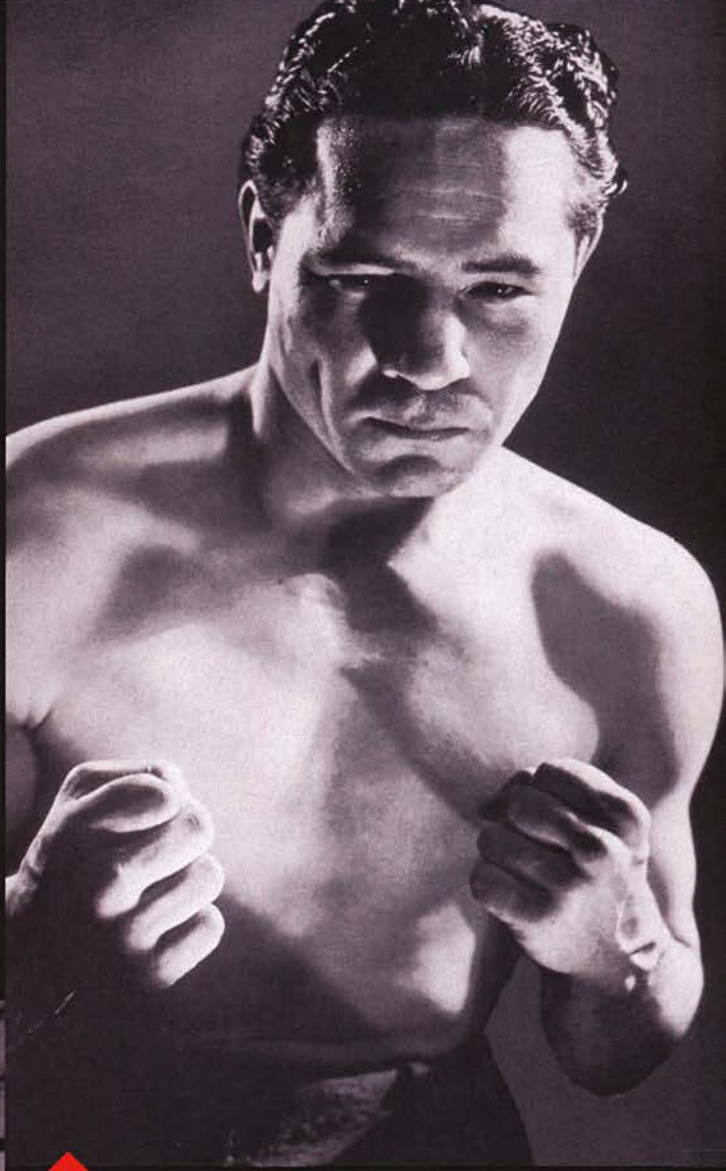
#17 KHAOSAI GALAXY
(47-1, 41 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1980-1991

Arguably the greatest junior bantamweight ever (and named after a nightclub) Khaosai Galaxy had unbelievable punching power, particularly in the southpaw's legendary left hand. Originally a Muay Thai fighter, schooled in the art from childhood, he switched to boxing on the advice of his manager and trainer. Khaosai's modus operandi was closing the distance and firing the left hand from several angles. As his experience grew, he added combination punching to that destructive left, which was just as often aimed at the midsection. Fast feet also enabled Khaosai to walk down the best boxers he faced. He won the vacant WBA title at 115 pounds against Eusebio Espinal in 1984, knocking out the previously undefeated Dominican in the sixth round to begin the longest title reign in the division's history. Khaosai defended the belt 19 times across seven years, winning 16 of those title fights by knockout. In the mid-1980s, when heavyweight champion Mike Tyson was in his prime and scoring knockouts over everyone, boxing fans nicknamed Khaosai "The Thai Tyson" for good reason.

#19 CARLOS ZARATE
(66-4, 63 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1970-1988

One of the greatest Mexican boxers in history – belonging in the pantheon alongside Ruben Olivares, Julio Cesar Chavez, Salvador Sanchez and, arguably, Canelo Alvarez – Ring Magazine's Fighter of the Year in 1977 was a bantamweight from Mexico City with power, skills and tenacity. Growing up, Zarate was expelled from schools for always being in fights. He was tall for his weight, and due to his reach he could hit opponents with a rapier left jab before dominating with combinations from the mid-range. By May 1976, when he challenged Rodolfo Martinez for the WBC title, Zarate had a record of 39-0, with 38 of those wins by stoppage. In that fight, he won by knockout in the ninth round, confirming his hard-hitting style all the way to world level. Nine times, Zarate defended the world title, but arguably his greatest triumph was viciously taking out former stablemate Alfonso Zamora in four rounds in a 1977 non-title bout. He was a victim himself of Wilfredo Gomez in 1978, and two bouts later he lost his title via controversial decision to stablemate Lupe Pintor in Las Vegas the following year.





#20 MAX BAER
(66-13, 51 KOs) • ACTIVE 1929-1941

Baer might have been dubbed "the clown prince of boxing," but there was nothing laughable about the physique, power and fearlessness of the 6-foot-2½ heavyweight champion. Baer stamped his authority as a puncher in the first 15 months of his career, winning 20 times by knockout in 27 fights. Overall, his right hand was a hammer, and the man from Omaha is credited by some sources with more than 100 career knockdowns. Famously, Baer knocked Primo Carnera down 11 times in as many rounds to capture the title in 1934. "You're nothing more than overstuffed salami, and when I get through with you, you'll think you've been through a meat grinder," Baer had told Carnera at the weigh-in, even pulling chest hairs off the champion. They were the antics of a character of the time, a star indeed. An out-and-out playboy to boot, Baer lost the title in 1935 to "Cinderella Man" Jim Braddock and said afterward, "He can use the title; he has three kids. I don't know how many I've got." But Baer's punching power and knockout tally took him into an exclusive club in the sport with over 50 knockouts. A heavyweight puncher in every department.

#21 ROCKY GRAZIANO
(67-10-6, 52 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1942-1952

One of the indelible images of 1940s boxing was Graziano smashing away at an opponent with his right hand. He threw it like a criminal trying to destroy an enemy in a dark alley. His record didn't quite underscore his greatness as a brawler.

True, he was accused of some shady behavior in his day and was even banned in New York because he hadn't reported a bribe offer to throw a fight. True, he looked as if he'd learned the fundamentals of fighting from cavemen, and might've been more at home swinging a club than his fists. And true, while battling Tony Zale in one of boxing's great trilogies, he came up on the losing end twice.

But it is also true that his right hand was fabulously destructive. Among his knockout victims were Marty Servo, Freddie Cochrane (twice), Zale (for the middleweight title), Tony Janiro, Charley Fusari, Al "Bummy" Davis, and Billy Arnold. Late in Graziano's career he was resurrected to face the great Sugar Ray Robinson in Chicago. Well past his prime, Rocky was KO'd in three. But before he was beaten, Graziano made a fight of it, hurting Robinson more than once. How'd he manage to reach the great one? With the right hand, of course, thrown like he was heaving a brick through a store window.

#22 MATTHEW SAAD MUHAMMAD
(39-16-3, 29 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1974- 1992

He didn't start his career as a great puncher, but for a period between 1977 and 1981 Muhammad was as great as any puncher who ever lived. He won 18 consecutive bouts in that stretch, 15 by knockout. Twice he stopped Marvin Johnson, the second time for the WBC light heavyweight title. He also scored knockout wins against Billy Douglas, John Conteh, Murray Sutherland, and Vonzell Johnson. His KOs were always picturesque, him throwing wide, sweeping punches, his opponents falling dramatically.

Prior to his emergence as a knockout specialist, Muhammad was a solid Philadelphia fighter, but many of his bouts were going the full distance, and he was often going home with draws or split decision losses. Gradually, however, Muhammad changed to an all-action style, gaining fame for his many come-from-behind victories and earning the nickname "Miracle Matthew." He cemented his reputation as boxing's most exciting fighter with his two KO wins over Yaqui Lopez, the second bout being The Ring's 1980 Fight of the Year. Muhammad's hell-bent style couldn't serve him forever, though. By the mid-1980s, after losing his title to Dwight Qawi, he began a long slide into a troubled personal life.

Still, it was that unforgettable four-year span that guarantees him a mention in any conversion about punchers.

#23 DANNY LOPEZ
(42-6, 39 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1971-1992

There was a sneaking suspicion that "Little Red" Lopez could punch a bit. After all, he started his pro ring career with a 21-fight knockout streak.

Lopez fought during the 1970s, a heyday for popular and hard-punching featherweights. Lopez was part of a strange boxing tradition, that of the scrawny fellow who looks undernourished yet packs a stick of dynamite in each fist. Wondering where the power came from was part of what made him so fascinating. He was also a daredevil type, never afraid to swap punches, always capable of scoring a knockout. Not surprisingly, the combination of his daring style and his heavy punch made him a favorite in Los Angeles.

Among those who succumbed to Lopez' firepower were Chucho Castillo, Ruben Olivares, and Sean O'Grady, a trio of good punchers. Lopez won the WBC featherweight title from David Kotey in 1977 and made eight successful defenses, including a 15th-round stoppage of Mike Ayala, which was selected by The Ring as the 1979 Fight of the Year.

What was his best punch? Any punch he threw.

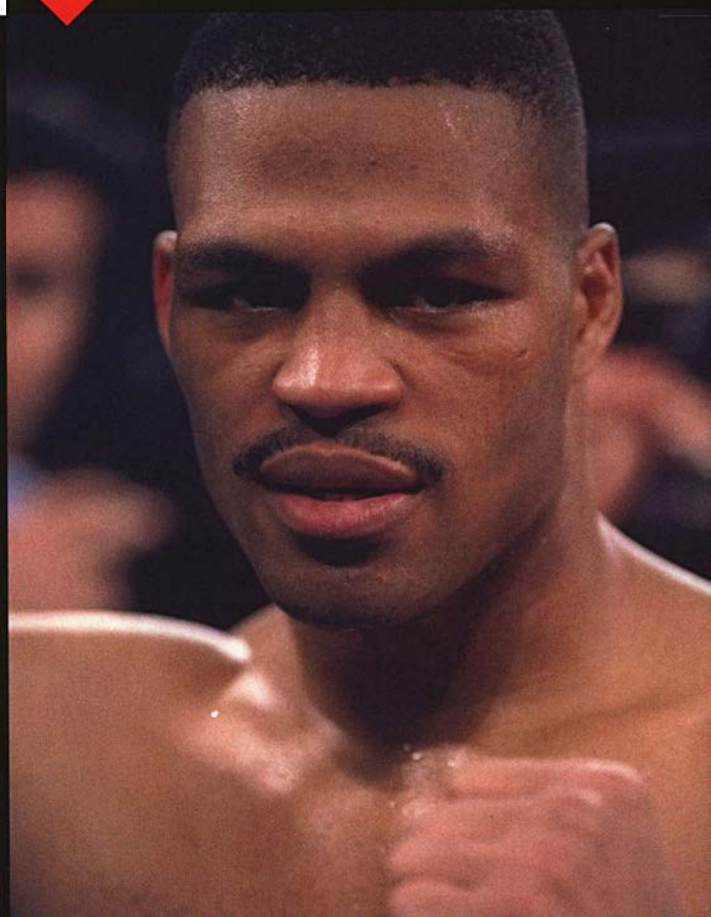
#24 GERALD MCCLELLAN
(31-3, 29 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1988-1995

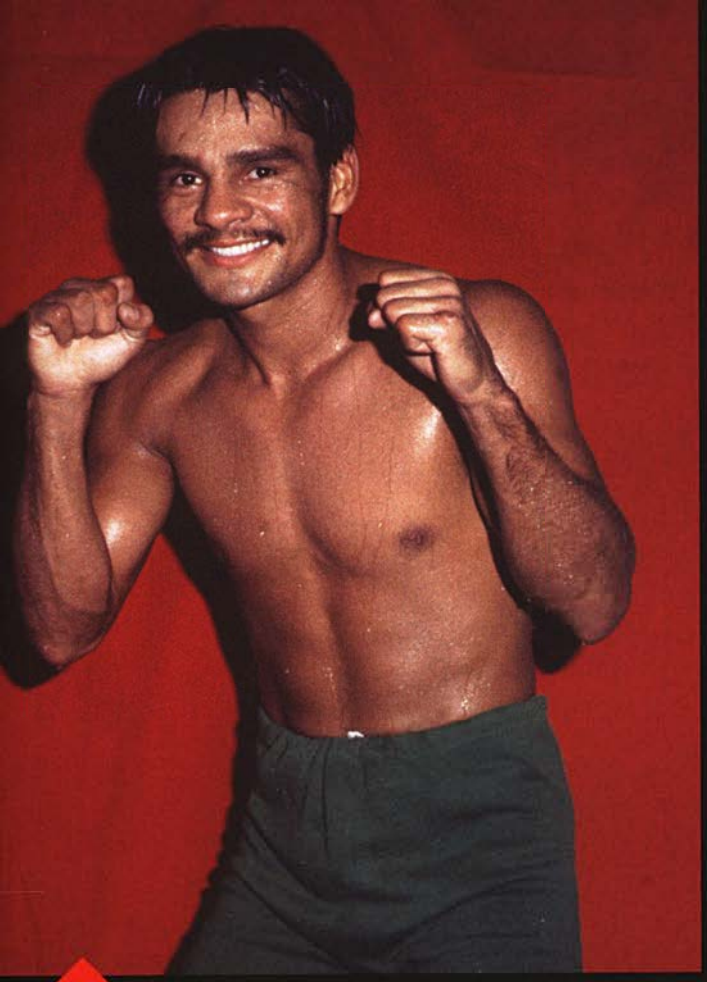
There are knockout punchers, and there are guys who knock out the knockout punchers. "G-Man" was in the latter category, stopping the highly dangerous Julian Jackson twice, as well as another thunderous hitter in John "The Beast" Mugabi. The fact that McClellan usually put opponents away in the first round added to his legacy as a world-class banger.

He was nimble and could hit with either hand, though his favorite weapon was a slightly arching right hand lead. He liked to follow it with a left hook, and if both landed it was usually disastrous for his opponent. He was a handy body puncher, but for the most part, he gambled on his right to the chin. Any fighter who could punch like McClellan would do the same.

Prior to his exit from the business, he knocked out 85 percent of his opposition. Along the way he won the WBO and WBC middleweight titles and earned a reputation as one of the best fighters in the world, anointed as such by no less than Mike Tyson. As an amateur, McClellan defeated Roy Jones Jr. at a 1988 Golden Gloves tournament in Nebraska. Emanuel Steward, a trainer known for working with good punchers, handled McClellan for most of his career.

Unfortunately, even a hard puncher such as McClellan had to deal with boxing's dark side. His career was cut short by a brain injury suffered in an epic battle with fellow puncher Nigel Benn when he was only 27.





#25 ROBERTO DURAN
(103-16, 70 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1968-2001

It was with good reason that Duran was nicknamed "Hands of Stone." For boxing fans of the 1970s, Duran's name was synonymous with devastating punching ability. His long reign as lightweight champion included 12 title defenses and numerous non-title bouts, most of which ended with his opponent on the canvas.

Panama's favorite son wasn't merely a slugger; he could box as smartly as anyone, and he improved his ring skills as he matured. He turned pro at the age of 17 and retired at 50.

Among the unfortunate souls who failed to go the distance with Duran was Ken Buchanan, whom Duran stopped in 13 rounds for the WBA lightweight title in 1972. The roll call of Duran victims would also include Hiroshi Kobayashi, Benny Huertas, Guts Ishimatsu, Ray Lampkin, Vilomar Fernandez, Esteban de Jesus (twice, the second time being a lightweight unification bout), Pipino Cuevas, and Davey Moore. Though he certainly scored his share of early-round knockouts, Duran's specialty was to wear opponents down and stop them late.

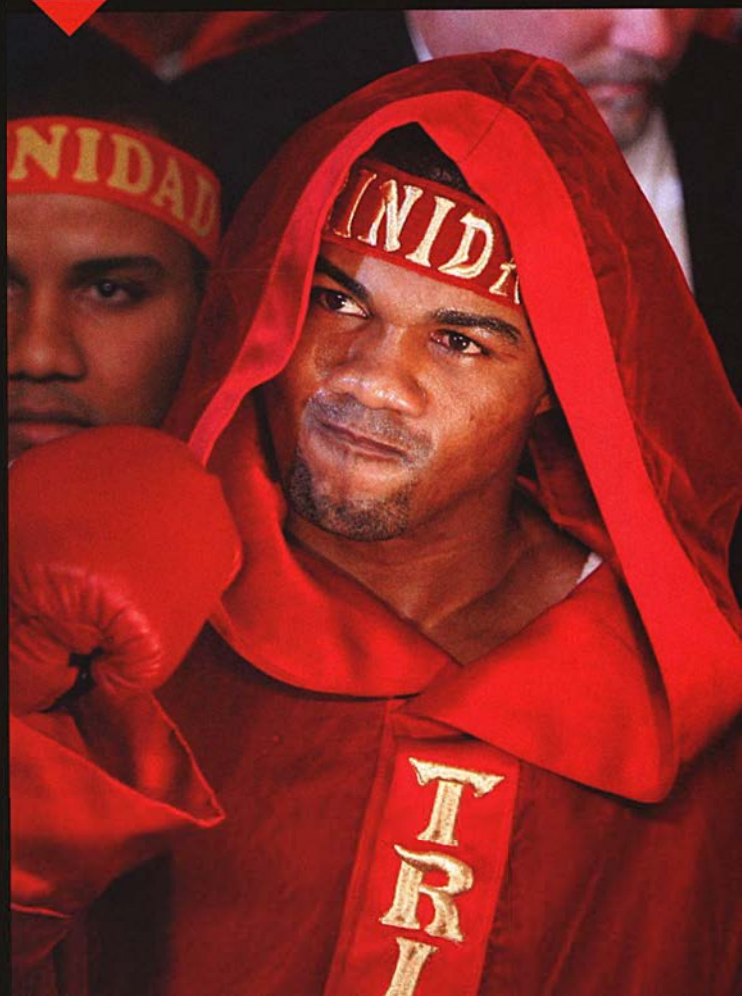
Beyond his prime as a 37-year-old middleweight, Duran was able to put Iran Barkley on the canvas on the way to a split decision win in The Ring's 1989 Fight of the Year. The victory earned Duran the WBC middleweight title and proved to his adoring public that there was still some stone in those hands.

#26 FELIX TRINIDAD
(42-3, 35 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1990-2008

Built like a whippet but surprisingly powerful with his left hook, Trinidad was the dominating welterweight of the 1990s, making 15 successful defenses of the IBF title, all but three ending by stoppage.

One of Puerto Rico's most popular fighters, Trinidad's style was old-school and straightforward, all about cutting the distance and landing his lethal left. He boxed well enough to earn decisions over some top talents, but with "Tito" it was always about the punching. He also carried his power up to junior middleweight and middleweight, winning titles in those weight classes. The list of his knockout victims is impressive, including the likes of Maurice Blocker (from whom Trinidad won his first title belt) "Yori Boy" Campas, Oba Carr, Freddie Pendleton, Troy Waters, Fernando Vargas, William Joppy, Hacine Cherifi and the hard-headed Ricardo Mayorga.

He had less success in his later years, dropping three of his last five contests. Though he didn't become the Puerto Rican Sugar Ray Robinson, which is what some were predicting when he left the welterweight class, he remains a cult figure for hardcore fans who appreciate Trinidad for what he was: an absolute monster at 147 pounds, and one of the best punchers in history.



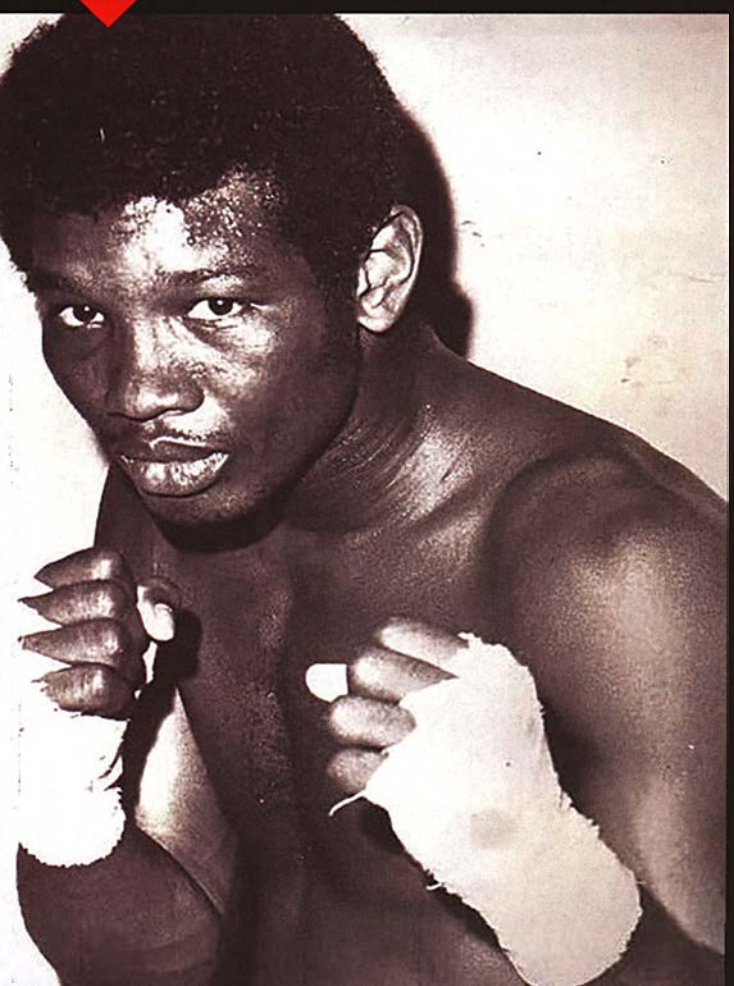
NOS. 21-30 BY DON STRADLEY

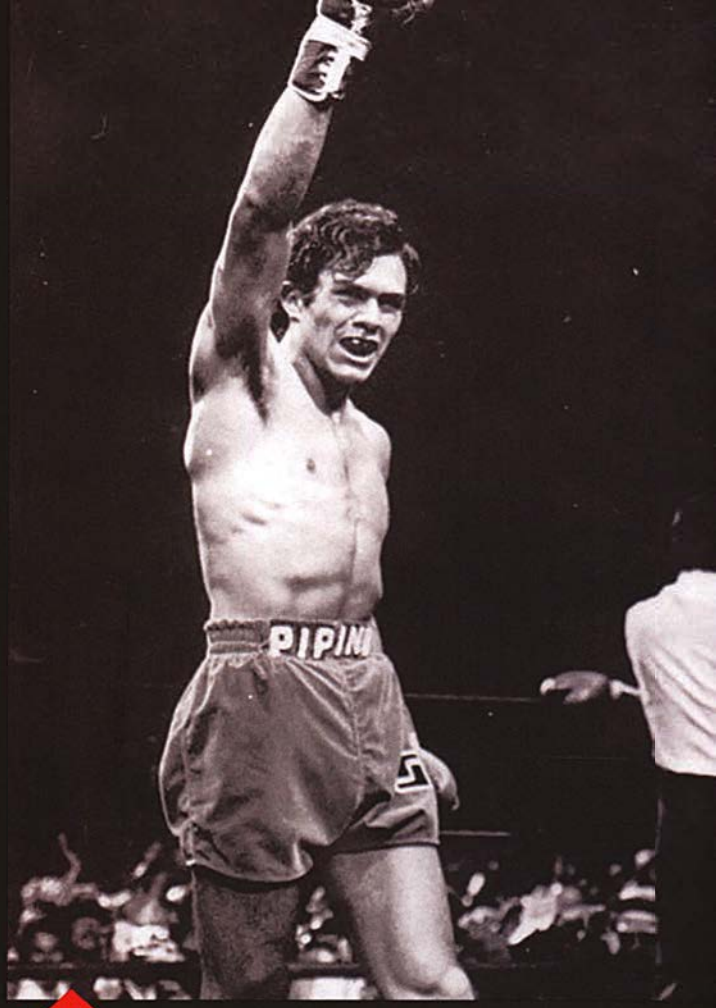
#27 RODRIGO VALDES
(63-8-2, 43 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1963-1980

Though he may be best remembered for losing two epic 15-round rumbles with Carlos Monzon, Colombia's Valdes was an awesome puncher in his own right (and with his own right).

His KO credentials include a stoppage win of the incredibly tough Bennie Briscoe for the vacant WBC middleweight title in 1974, plus knockouts of such international contenders of the day as Gratien Tonna and Max Cohen. Mentored by the venerated American trainer Gil Clancy, Valdes could box well enough to win decisions when needed, but when he wanted to put opponents away and go home early, he did so with stiff, slashing punches.

He finished his career at age 34. Though he was often in the shadow of the legendary Monzon, Valdes' punching ability had taken him all around the world, starting in Colombia and then to the U.S., Monaco, France, Italy, Ecuador, New Caledonia and Argentina. Fittingly, Valdes' final bout was back home in Colombia. Before a partisan crowd in Bogota's Coliseum of Champions, he scored a first-round KO over an easy mark named Gilberto Almonte. It was a nice farewell to the business and a chance to give his countrymen one last glimpse of his punching magic.





#28 PIPINO CUEVAS
(35-15, 31 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1971-1989

Cuevas began his professional ring career just shy of age 14 in Mexico City, and there was nothing to suggest he was destined for greatness. He lost five of his first 12 fights and looked to be nothing but fodder for an already crowded welterweight division. Yet at age 18, he scored a surprise second-round knockout of Angel Espada for the WBA welterweight title, kicking off one of the most impressive title reigns of the 1970s.

Cuevas was a thrill a minute for the next four years, defending the title 11 times against some top names. All but one opponent failed to hear the last bell. Clyde Gray fell in two rounds, as did Billy Backus, Pete Ranzany and Scott Clark. Espada tried twice to regain his title, but Cuevas stopped him both times. Two Harolds, Volbrecht and Weston, failed to go the distance with Cuevas, dropping in five and nine rounds respectively.

He was a little spark plug of a fighter, winging his left hook into the chin and body of whoever dared fight him. Unfortunately, once he lost his title to Tommy Hearns in 1980, Cuevas seemed to revert to his old self, losing as often as he won.

Is it possible that Cuevas was a great champion without being a great fighter? The belt seemed to elevate him, and once he lost it he was never the same. Yet he was a great puncher, and that's undeniable.

NOS. 21-30 BY DON STRADLEY

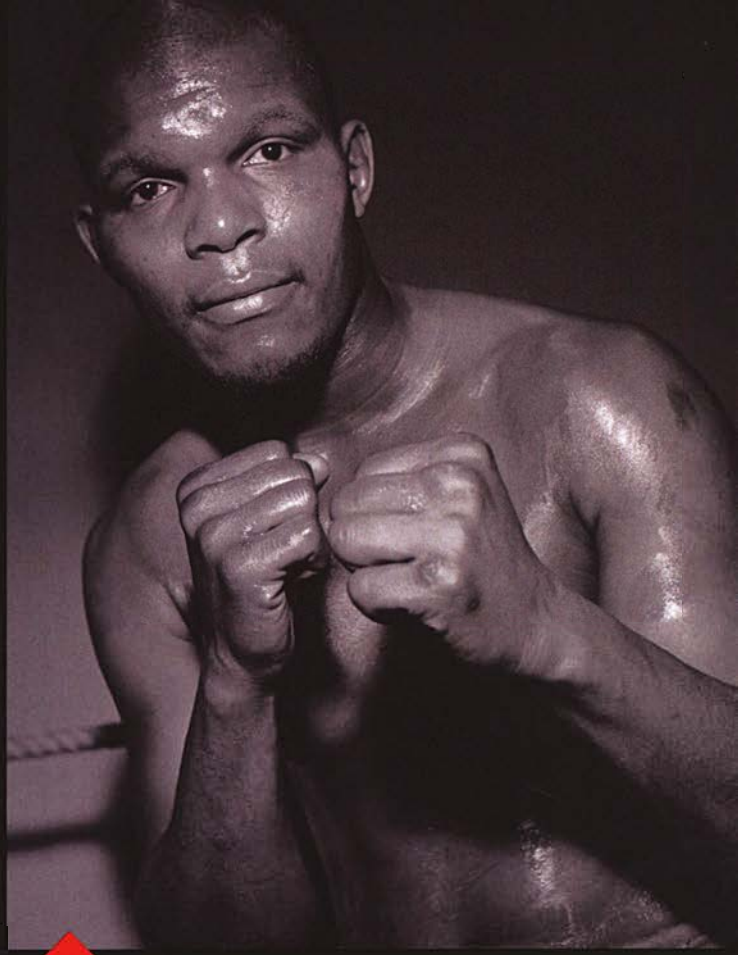
#29 EDWIN VALERO
(27-0, 27 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2002-2010

For some, Valero's tragic end in a Venezuelan jail overshadows all else in his career. Yet it shouldn't be forgotten that he was one of boxing's best punchers.

He started his career with 18 first-round knockouts. This was a much talked-about record of some kind, already since broken, but in the first decade of the new century, Valero was as hot as anybody in the business, a veritable cult figure to those who believed he would be the next big thing. His admirers had every reason to think Valero was on his way to a Hall of Fame career. He not only possessed explosive speed and power, but was actually a very fine boxer, as smooth as a fencing master.

When the competition improved, he kept scoring knockouts. Vicente Mosquera gave him a tough battle, but Valero stopped him in 10 for the WBA junior lightweight title. In what turned out to be the final bout of his career, he caused tough Antonio DeMarco to quit on his stool after nine bruising rounds.

Shortly thereafter, Valero's life spiraled out of control. A longtime drug user, Valero shocked the boxing world when he confessed to killing his wife and then committed suicide. It was an imperfect existence, marked by a perfect record.

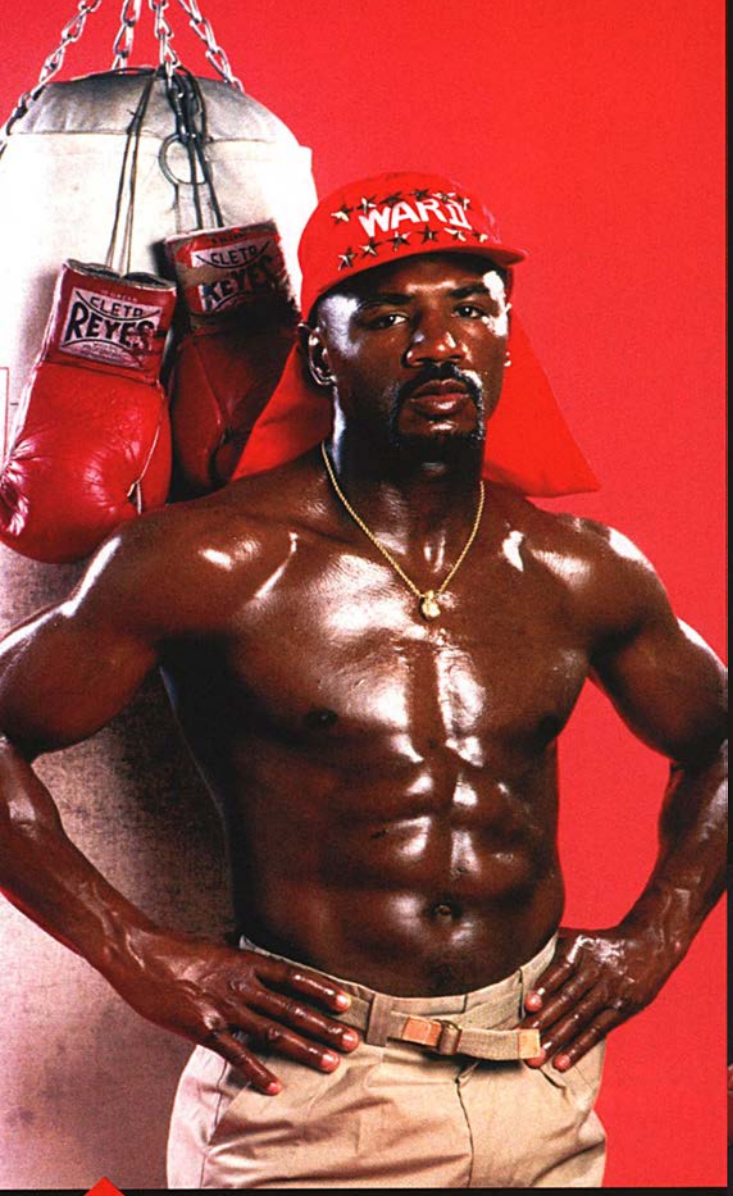


#30 BENNIE BRISCOE
(66-24-5, 53 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1962-1982

"Bad Bennie" was a Philadelphia archetype, taking fights on short notice, sometimes in poor health or undertrained, but always willing to trade punches. And why wouldn't he? Bennie had the sort of punch that scared people. Some of his KO victims include Billy "Dynamite" Douglas, Eugene "Cyclone" Hart, Tony Mundine and Vicente Rondon.

Perhaps the ultimate example of Briscoe's prowess was in his second bout with Carlos Monzon. It was a contest he lost, but even the great Monzon, usually as aggressive as a lion, spent most of the bout dancing and jabbing, not giving Briscoe a chance to settle in and land anything hard. But when Monzon took a breather in the ninth round, he paid dearly. Sensing an opportunity, Briscoe clipped him on the jaw with a short right. Monzon staggered against the ropes, nearly out on his feet. The champ had to hang on for the rest of the round, a look of terror on his face. Though he cleared his head and went on to win the bout on points, Monzon came very close to losing the title. Few had ever hurt Monzon the way Briscoe did with that single clean shot.

Briscoe fought for the middleweight title many times and always came up short. He was a hard-luck character. But he could hit like a mule. Monzon and many others would attest to it.

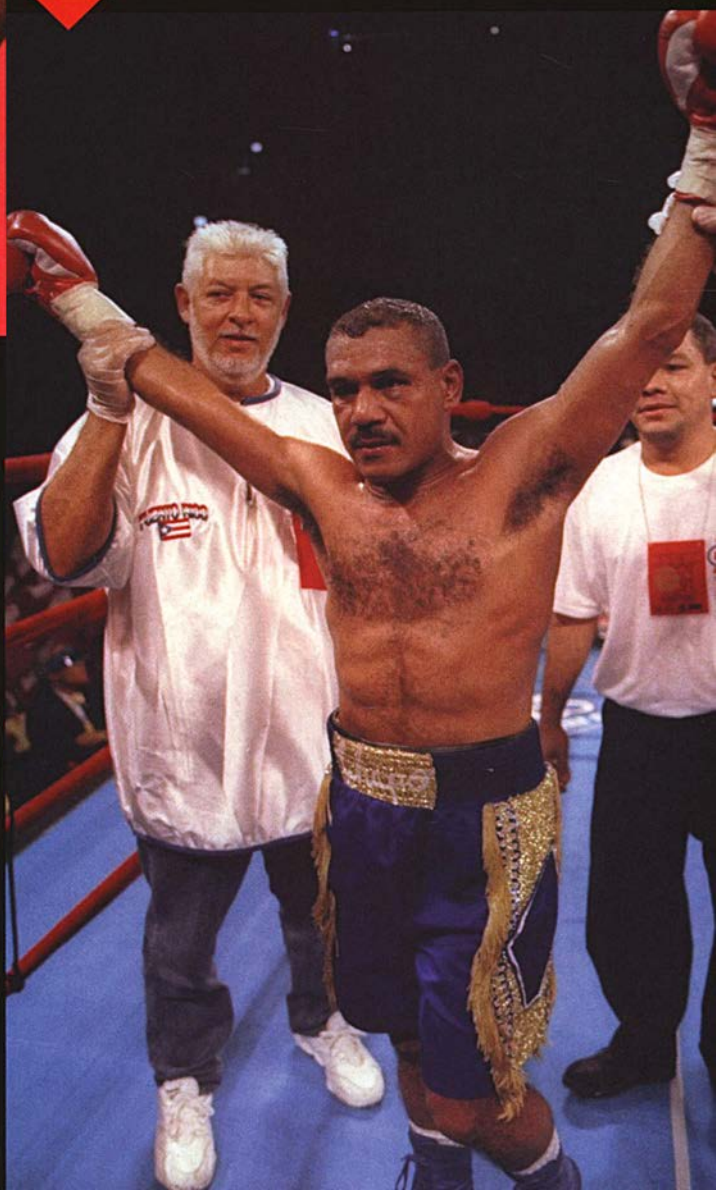


#31 MARVELOUS MARVIN HAGLER
(62-3-2, 52 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1973-1987

If a fighter walks around with the phrase "Destruction and Destroy" on his T-shirt, he better be able to back it up on fight night, and that's exactly what Marvelous Marvin Hagler did over the course of a Hall of Fame career that saw him finish 52 of his 62 pro wins by knockout. Owner of a 92 percent KO percentage in his 12 successful middleweight title defenses, Hagler was a punishing puncher who could crack the most durable of chins and faces, including Mustafa Hamsho (TKO 11, TKO 3) and Vito Antuofermo (D 15, TKO 4), and his relentless offense was aided by the fact that his granite chin made him fearless about wading into battle with anyone. That fearlessness resulted in two of the middleweight legend's greatest triumphs: a 1986 finish of brutal puncher John Mugabi (KO 11) and, of course, the 1985 blitz of Thomas Hearns in the bout that exists in history as simply "The War." It's also key to note that as Hagler dropped and stopped contender after contender, he did it during a golden age for the 160-pound weight class.

#32 EDWIN ROSARIO
(47-6, 41 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1979-1997

If you want to know how potent a puncher Edwin Rosario was, consider that perhaps the biggest shot he landed didn't even result in a knockdown or knockout or lead to a win. Instead, many believe that the left hook "El Chapo" landed on Hector Camacho in the fifth round of their 1986 lightweight title bout shook the "Macho Man" so badly that he turned into a safety-first defensive fighter for the rest of his career. Camacho won that fight by split decision, but three months later, Rosario blasted out Livingstone Bramble (KO 2) to regain a portion of the lightweight title. It was one of 41 knockouts scored by the Puerto Rico native, who won his first 15 bouts within the distance before James Martinez (UD 10) made it to the final bell. And though halting the likes of Bramble, Roberto Elizondo, Juan Nazario and Loreto Garza was notable, his most impressive stoppage may have been of Edwin Viruet (TKO 3), a boxer who had previously gone 25 rounds in two fights with Roberto Duran without leaving his feet.



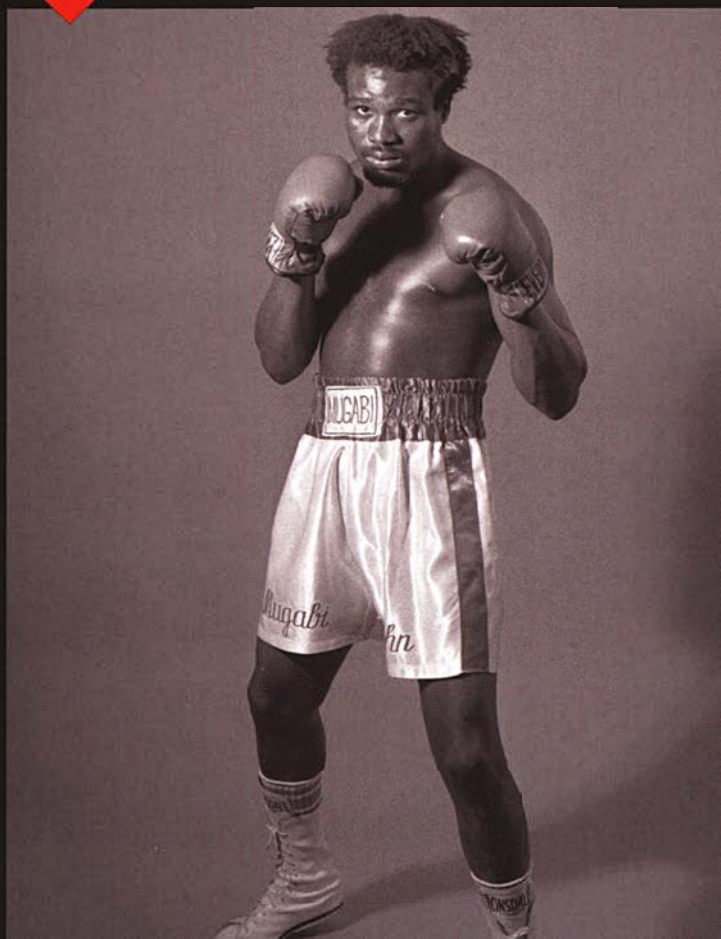
#33 NAOYA INOUE
(22-0, 19 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2012-PRESENT

No Japanese boxer in recent history has made a worldwide impact quite like Kanagawa's Naoya Inoue has, and that has everything to do with the lights-out power possessed by the "Monster." Still shy of his 30th birthday, the unbeaten three-division champion isn't an imposing heavyweight or a physical specimen that strikes fear into his foes. Instead, Inoue is a king of the lower weight classes whose technique, body-punching, power and flair for the dramatic have made him a star not just at home, but across the Pacific, where he earned the cover of The Ring Magazine in February 2019 (as the sport's best puncher in the annual State of the Game roundup) and again in September of that year. That ability to halt all comers made Inoue confident enough to battle the best of the bantamweight division in the World Boxing Super Series tournament in 2018-19, and after making short work of Juan Carlos Payano (TKO 1) and Emmanuel Rodriguez (TKO 2), he was forced to go the distance for only the third time in his career against Nonito Donaire (UD 12). But in the process of defeating the Filipino star in a tough 12-rounder – The Ring's 2019 Fight of the Year – Inoue proved he has championship mettle and world-class skills to go with his elite knockout power.

NOS. 31-40 BY THOMAS GERBASI

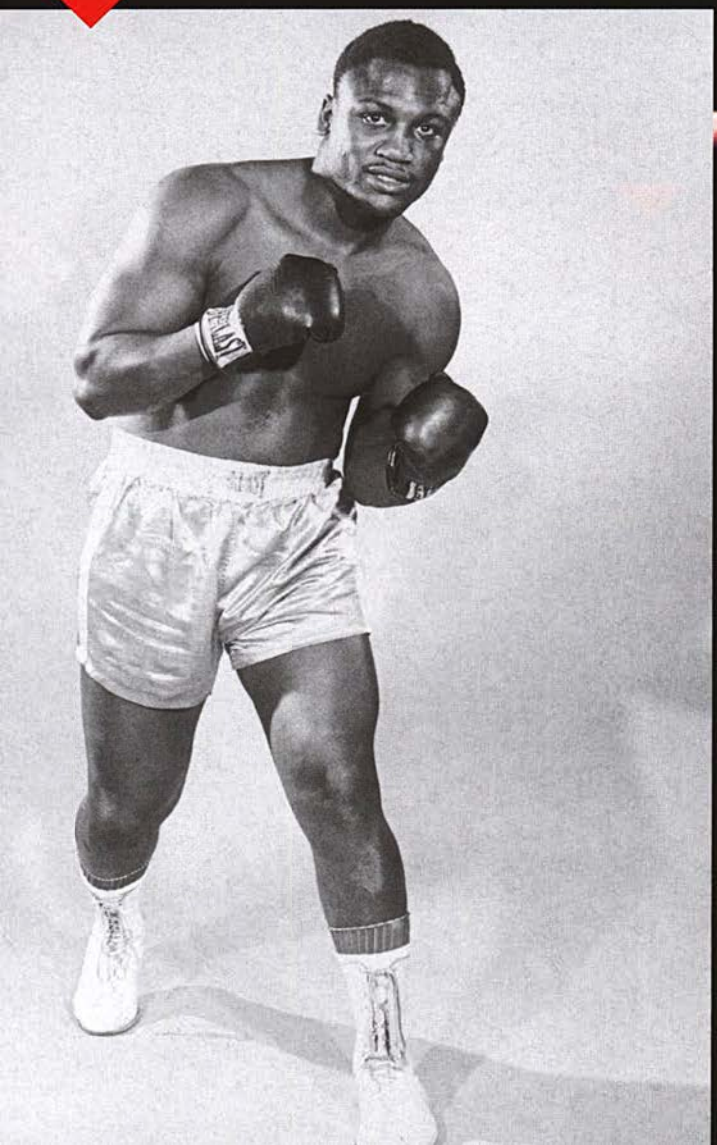
#34 JOHN MUGABI
(42-7-1, 39 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1980-1999

As noted earlier in relation to Marvelous Marvin Hagler, the 1980s were a golden age for the middleweight division, with all-time greats, legitimate contenders, and gritty action heroes seemingly battling it out on a weekly basis on free network television in the United States. Another member of that stellar group of 160-pounders came from Nsambya, Uganda, and John Mugabi's ferocious power earned him the nickname "The Beast." Not simply a crude brawler, Mugabi won a silver medal at the 1980 Olympics, but once he began his pro career, it was clear that his style and power were made for the punch-for-pay ranks. Fighting his first two years in Europe, Mugabi's career took off when he began fighting in the U.S., with a series of finishes over legit contenders Gary Guiden (TKO 3), Curtis Parker (KO 1), James Green (TKO 10), Wilbert "Vampire" Johnson (TKO 2), Frank Fletcher (TKO 4) and Nino Gonzalez (KO 1) earning him a shot at the middleweight title owned by Hagler in 1986. Mugabi pushed Hagler but was ultimately stopped in 11 rounds, and though he would eventually win a title at 154 pounds, a pair of first-round defeats at the hands of Terry Norris and Gerald McClellan spelled the end of The Beast's run as a top-flight fighter.



#35 JOE FRAZIER
(32-4-1, 27 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1965-1981

While there will always be a spirited debate over who the greatest puncher in boxing history is, when it comes to the single most notable punch, there may be universal agreement that the left hook thrown by Mr. Joe Frazier is the winner, or at least that it's in the top three. Delivered with speed, power and genuine enthusiasm from "Smokin' Joe," Frazier's left hook was like the Green Bay Packers' sweep from their glory days in the 1960s; everyone knew it was coming, but you still couldn't stop it. On March 8, 1971, Frazier put a stamp on the "Fight of the Century" against Muhammad Ali with a ferocious and flush left hook that dropped "The Greatest" to the seat of his pants. Ali would rise, but it was Frazier's night (UD 15), just like it was in his stoppages of a who's who of heavyweight boxing in the '60s and '70s, including Eddie Machen (TKO 10), Doug Jones (KO 6), George Chuvalo (TKO 4), Buster Mathis (TKO 11), Jerry Quarry (TKO 7, TKO 5) and Jimmy Ellis (TKO 4, TKO 9).



#36 GENNADIY GOLOVKIN
(41-1-1, 36 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2006-PRESENT

If we're being honest, Gennadiy Golovkin does not look or act like a devastating knockout artist, so it wasn't surprising when a pretty fair puncher from New York City, Curtis Stevens, thought that if his challenge for Golovkin's middleweight title in 2013 turned into a firefight, he would be the one leaving Madison Square Garden's Theater with his hand raised. Then came the left hook that put him on the deck in the second round, and the shocked look on Stevens' face said it all. Six rounds later, the fight was over thanks to the punishing attack of "GGG," an equal-opportunity finisher who ended bouts with an accumulation of damage-causing blows (TKO 7 Gabriel Rosado and TKO 5 Kell Brook), body shots (KO 3 Matthew Macklin) and one-punch crushers (KO 2 Marco Antonio Rubio) during his long reign over the 160-pound weight class. How scary was the prime Golovkin? He won 23 consecutive fights by knockout from 2008 to 2017 before Daniel Jacobs went the distance in a bout that still saw the New Yorker hit the deck in the fourth round.

TITLE BOXING

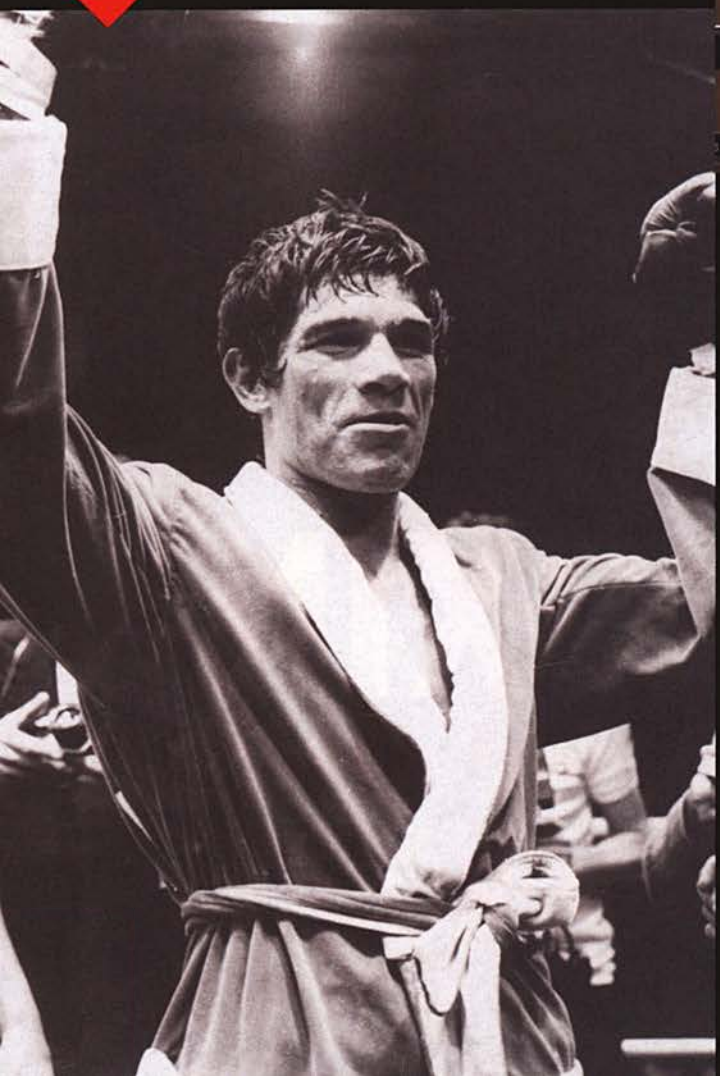
GEAR FOR EVERY GENERATION OF CHAMPIONS

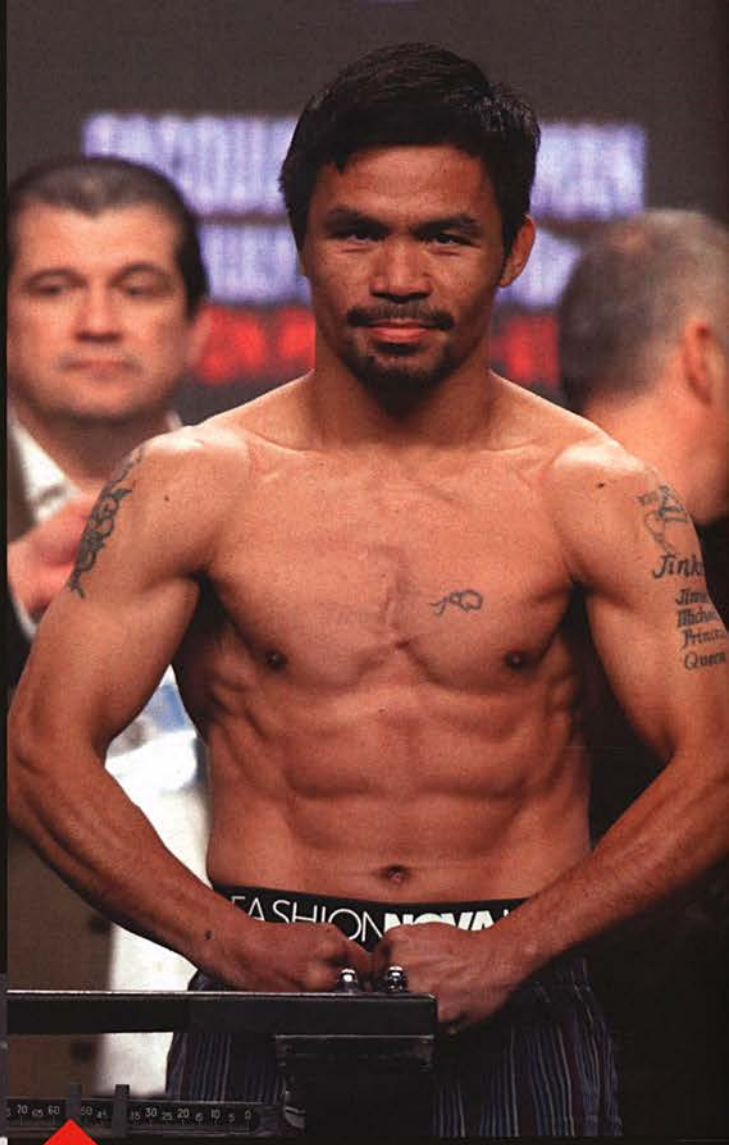
@titleboxing /titleboxing /titleboxing @titleboxing

TITLEBOXING.COM

#37 CARLOS MONZON
(87-3-9, 59 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1963-1977

Simply put, with his lanky frame, unorthodox attack and consistent pressure, middleweight great Carlos Monzon was a nightmare for anyone to fight. And when he stopped Nino Benvenuti (TKO 12) in 1970 to win the world title, any 160-pounder who wanted to get a championship belt had to go through Argentina's "Escopeta," which means shotgun. It was an apt moniker for the man who held the title for nearly seven years until retiring in 1977 after a second victory over Rodrigo Valdes (UD 15). During his reign, Monzon stopped the likes of Benvenuti (TKO 3), Emile Griffith (TKO 14), Denny Moyer (TKO 5), Jose Napoles (TKO 6), Tony Mundine (KO 7) and Gratien Tonna (KO 5), with his long-range right hand often his weapon of choice. That's not surprising for a fighter battling from the orthodox stance, but what made it unusual in Monzon's case was that he often seemed to be off-balance when throwing and landing it, which means that there was thunder in that glove no matter where he unleashed it from.



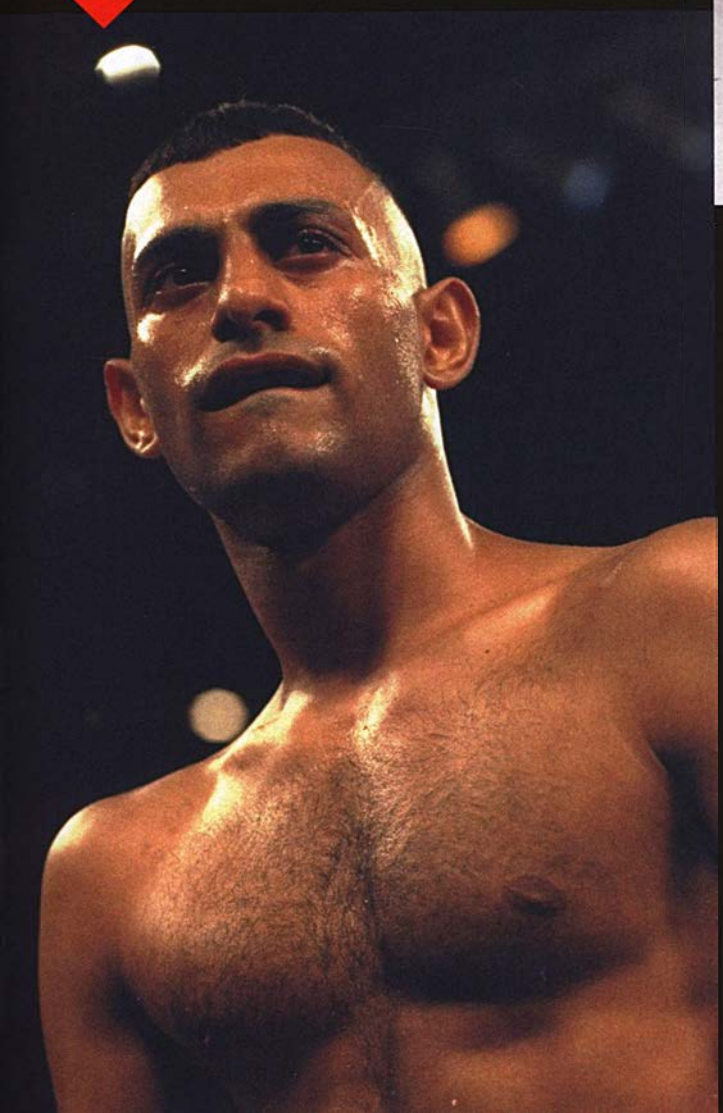


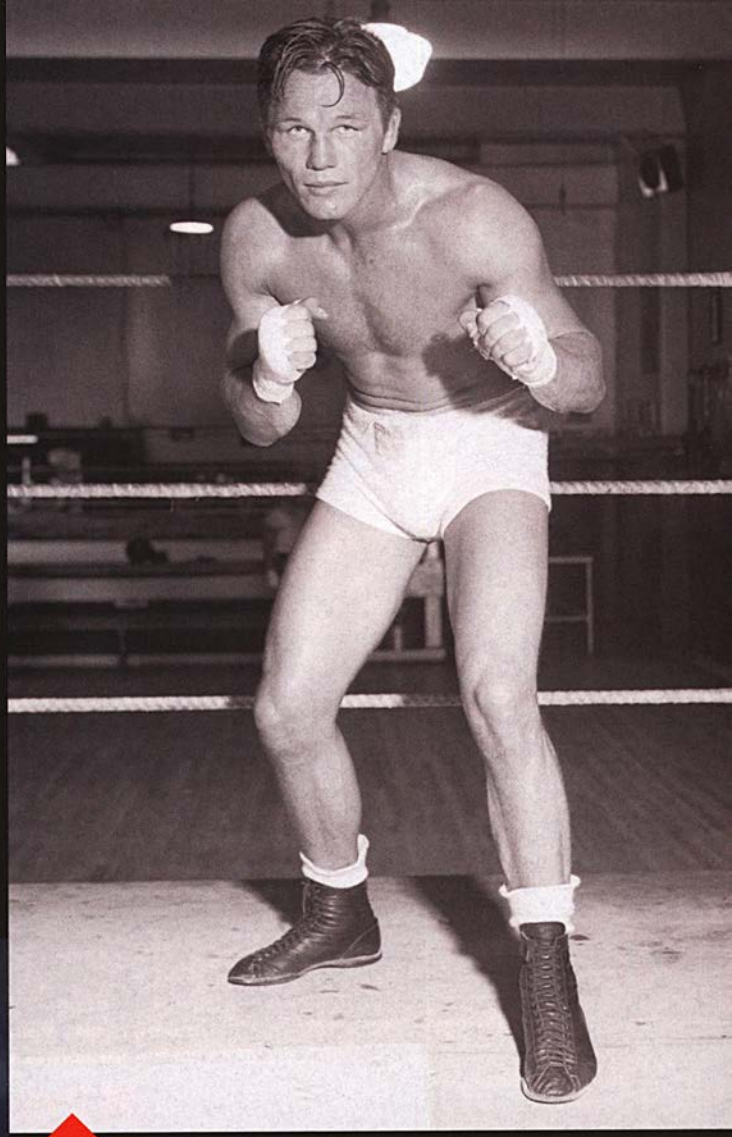
#38 MANNY PACQUIAO
(62-8-2, 39 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1995-2021

Given the storied career that will land Manny Pacquiao in the International Boxing Hall of Fame as soon as he is eligible, it's hard to believe that when he made his United States debut against Lehlo Ledwaba in 2001, he was the unknown underdog who came in on short notice against the South African. Less than six rounds later, a star was born, and fight fans got a glimpse of what made the kid from the Philippines so special – blinding speed that led to rapid-fire combinations and a laser-like left hand from the southpaw stance. Straight, fast and on target, Pacquiao's left hand could change a fight in a split-second, either shutting down an opponent instantly or making them tentative to engage, knowing what could be in store for them if they did. And though Pacquiao started his career fighting at 106 pounds and ended it at 146 pounds, his power carried with him throughout, as evidenced by a first-round knockdown of Keith Thurman (SD 12) in 2019. Along the way, his stoppages of Marco Antonio Barrera (TKO 11), Erik Morales (TKO 10, KO 3), Oscar De La Hoya (TKO 8), Ricky Hatton (KO 2) and Miguel Cotto (TKO 12) cemented his place among the greats.

#39 NASEEM HAMED
(36-1, 31 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1992-2002

Like his hero Muhammad Ali before him, "Prince" Naseem Hamed did nothing according to "proper" boxing technique, but that didn't stop him from ascending to the top of the boxing world and becoming an international superstar. The secret? Otherworldly power that came from every direction and dropped opponents like they were hit with a shotgun blast. His unorthodox style honed in the gym by trainer Brendan Ingle, the Sheffield, England, native was even knocking opponents out in the amateur ranks, but it was as a pro that Hamed truly began to shine. In 1995, he stopped durable Steve Robinson (TKO 8) to win the WBO featherweight title, then went on an eight-fight, eight-knockout blitz in defense of his belt in Europe before making his United States debut with an instant classic against Kevin Kelley (KO 4) in 1997. Now a star on both sides of The Pond, Hamed was forced to go the distance against tough outs like Wayne McCullough (UD 12) and Cesar Soto (UD 12) before losing his crown to Marco Antonio Barrera in 2001. But in between, frightening finishes of Augie Sanchez (TKO 4) and Vuyani Bungu (KO 4) proved that if the future Hall of Famer caught you clean, it was lights out.

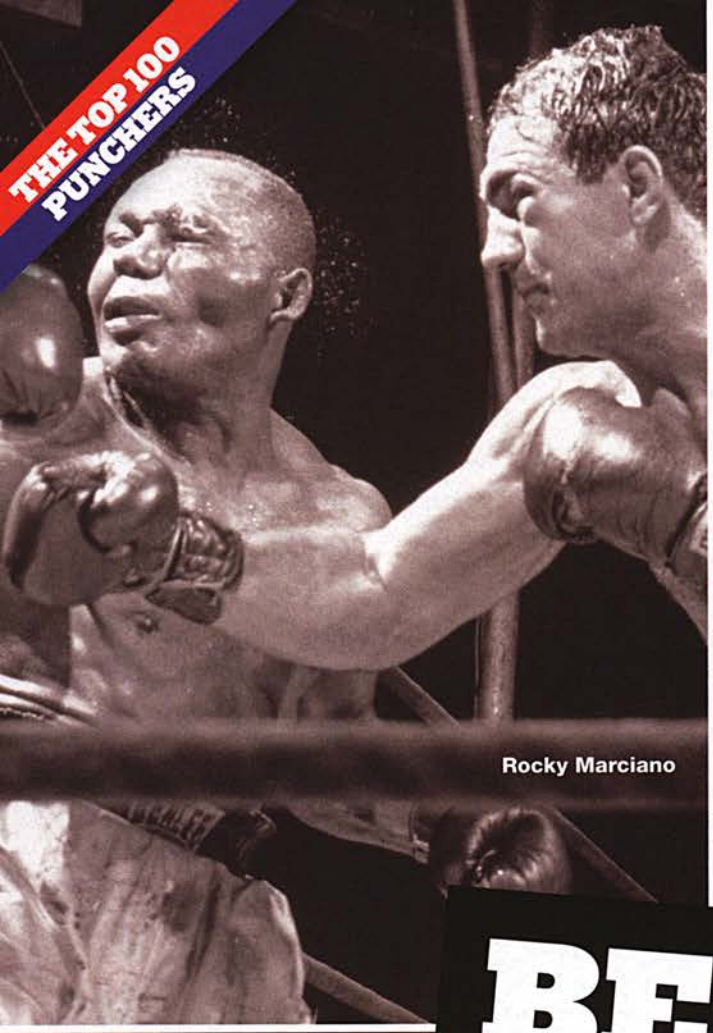




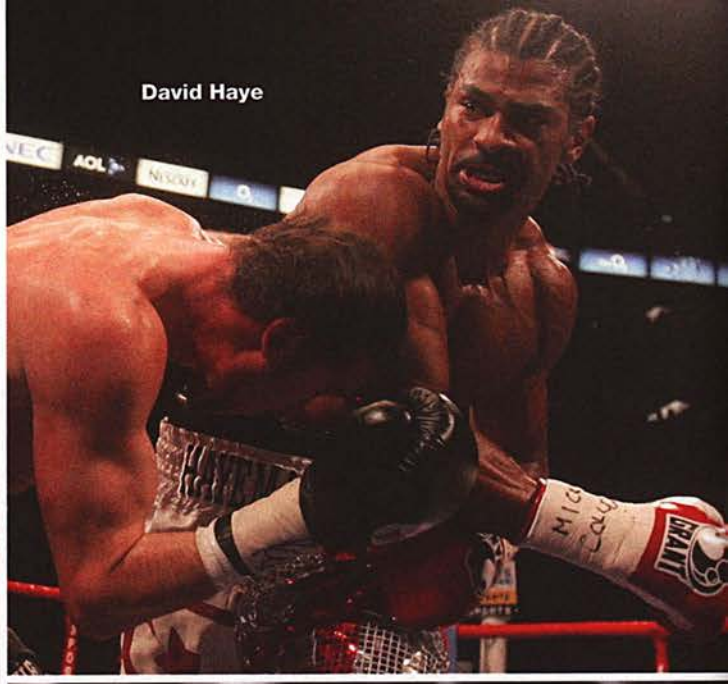
#40 TONY ZALE
(67-18-2, 45 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1934-1948

Bert Randolph Sugar once said that Tony Zale had the second-greatest body punch in boxing history (behind Billy Petrolle), and those on the receiving end wouldn't likely dispute that after taking blows from a man who earned his nickname – and his power – from working in the steel mills in his hometown of Gary, Indiana. Already 58 fights into his career before his first world title shot, Zale made the most of his long overdue opportunity when he scored a punishing win over Al Hostak (TKO 13) in July 1940. Zale stayed active in both title and non-title fights, most notably dropping Hostak eight times in their third bout (KO 2) and scoring a come-from-behind stoppage of Steve Mamakos (KO 14) in defense of his crown. It wasn't until 1946 that Zale would begin his most notable run in the ring thanks to his classic trilogy with Rocky Graziano. In their first fight (KO 6), Zale ended his challenger's night with what Sugar called a "body punch inserted up to the elbow." Graziano returned the favor in their 1947 rematch (TKO by 6), but Zale got the last word with a knockout of "The Rock" in their 1948 rubber match (KO 3).

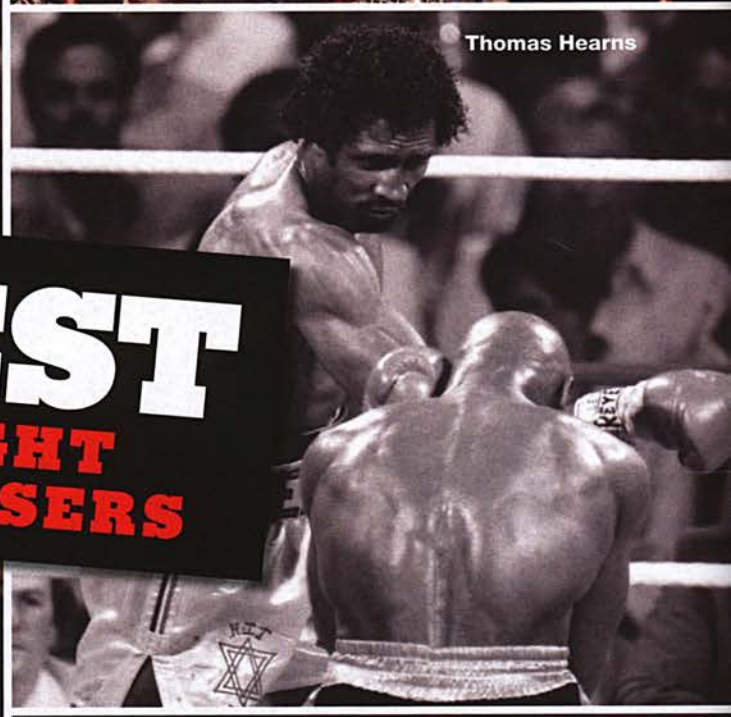
THE TOP 100 PUNCHERS



Rocky Marciano

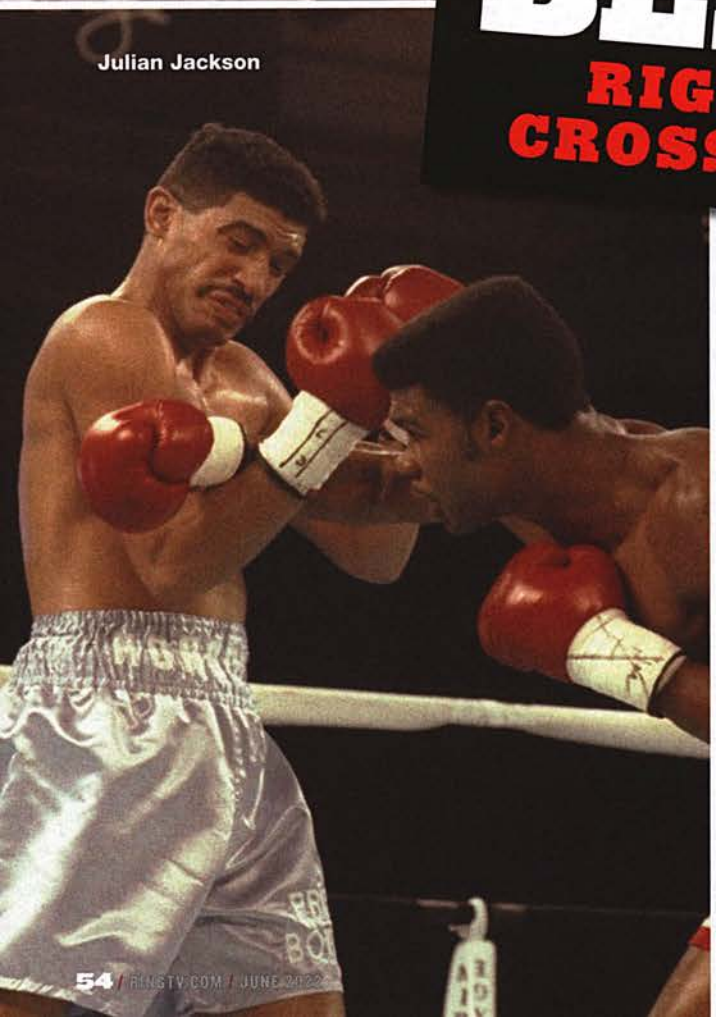


David Haye

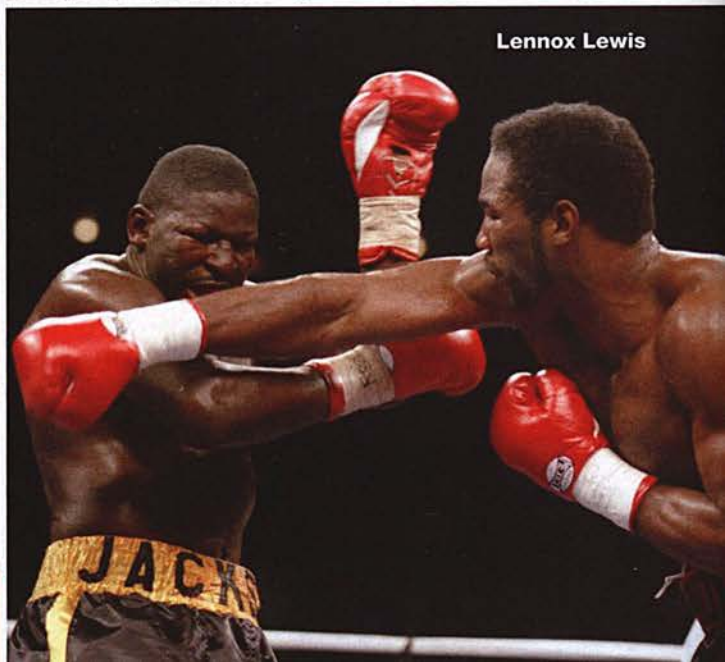


Thomas Hearns

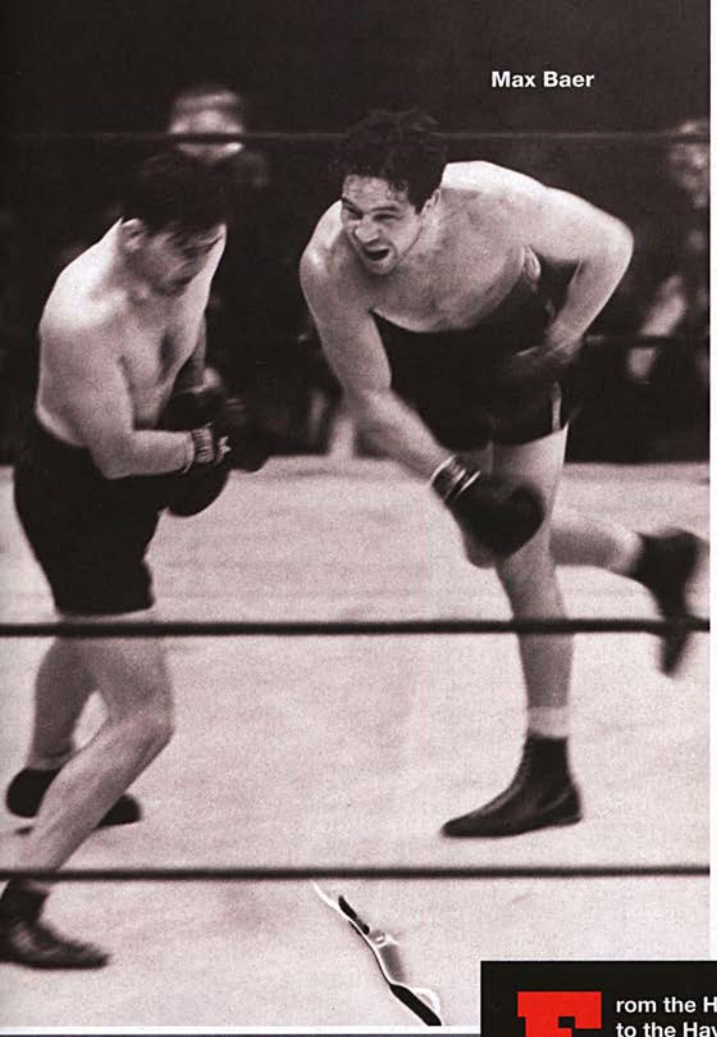
BEST RIGHT CROSSERS



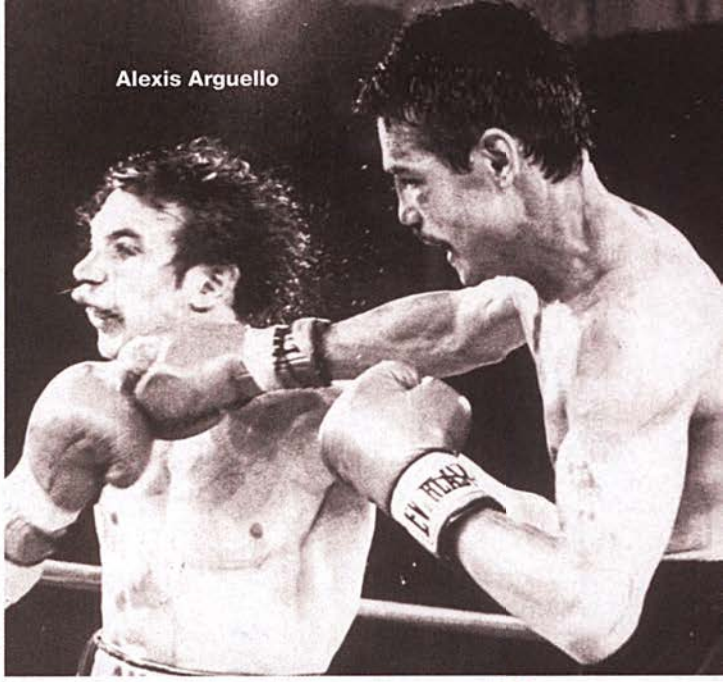
Julian Jackson



Lennox Lewis

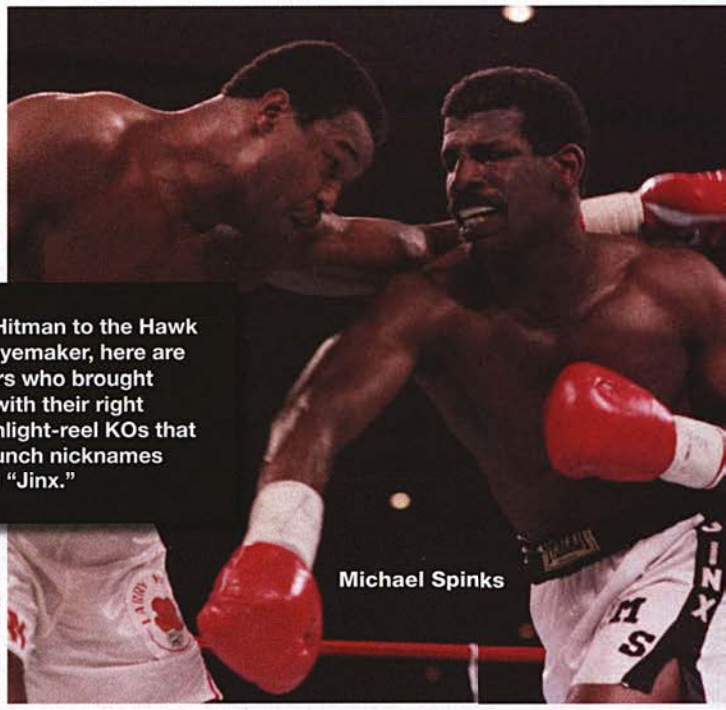


Max Baer

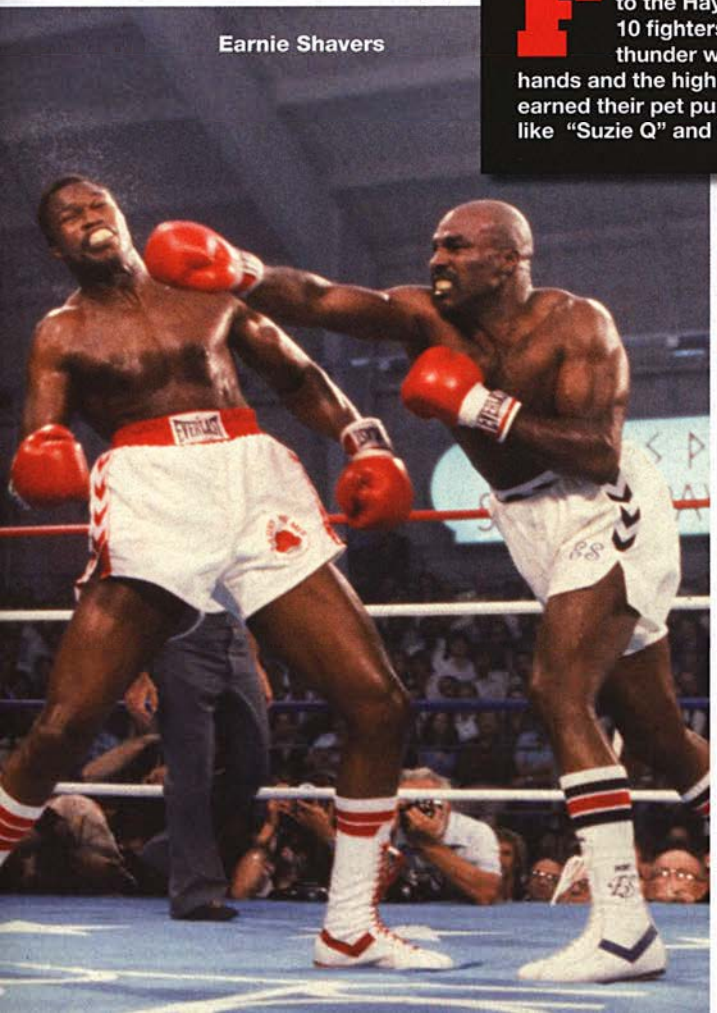


Alexis Arguello

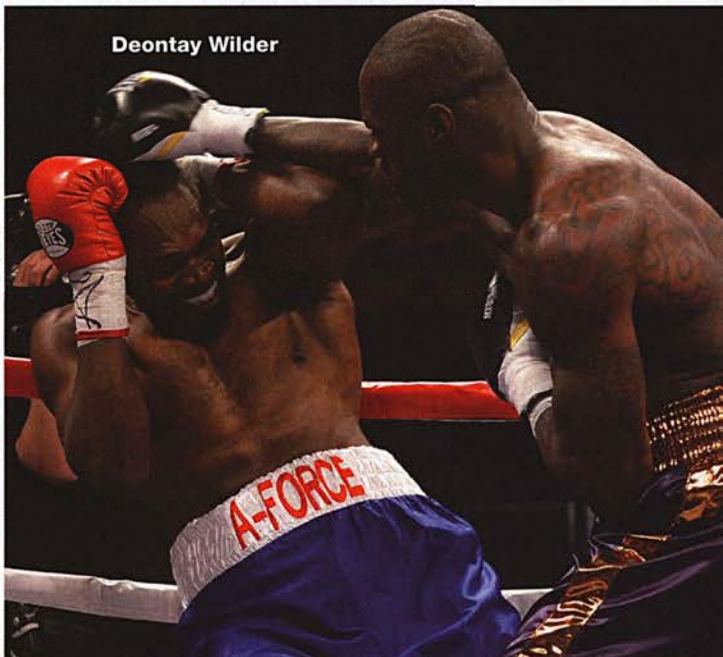
From the Hitman to the Hawk to the Hayemaker, here are 10 fighters who brought thunder with their right hands and the highlight-reel KOs that earned their pet punch nicknames like "Suzie Q" and "Jinx."



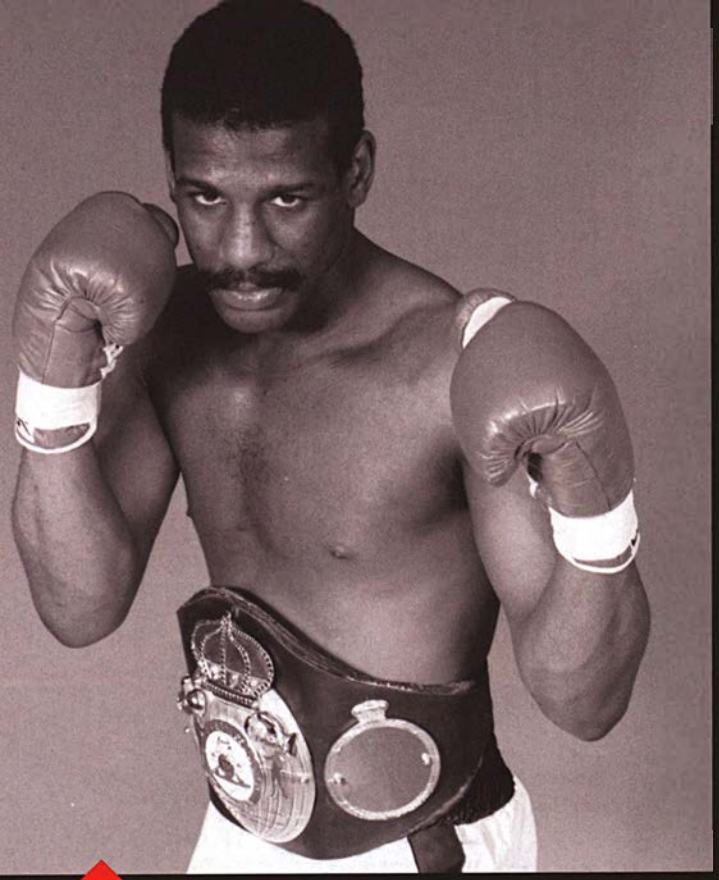
Michael Spinks



Earnie Shavers



Deontay Wilder

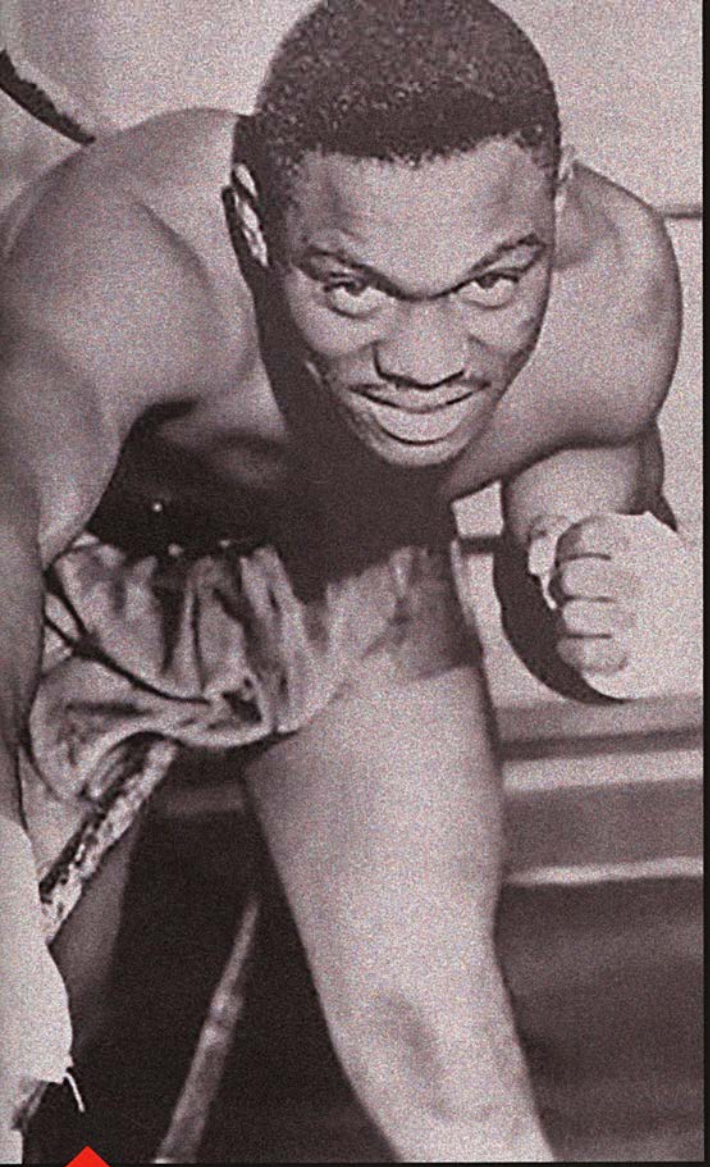


#41 MICHAEL SPINKS
(31-1, 21 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1977-1988

Although the first light heavyweight champion in boxing history to win the heavyweight title was not physically imposing, Michael Spinks was no joke. He was a supremely intelligent fighter with an awkward style that often baffled his opponents, but he was more than merely a smart tactician. He was one of the great finishers in light heavyweight history. Blessed with a 78-inch reach, Spinks effectively used his long, stiff jab to blind opponents and eventually set up his money punch, a crushing overhand right known as the "Spinks Jinx." That punch helped him stop eight of the 11 boxers who challenged him during his reign at 175 pounds and two of the four heavyweights he faced in title defenses. Spinks dropped Eddie Mustafa Muhammad to win the light heavyweight title by unanimous decision and then stopped his next five challengers inside the distance before unifying the championship with a majority decision over Dwight Muhammad Qawi. Two-and-a-half years and four title defenses later, Spinks challenged longtime heavyweight champion Larry Holmes despite weighing only 199¾ pounds, winning a tight but unanimous decision in September 1985. Seven months later, Spinks beat him again and then went on to knock out Steffen Tangstad and Gerry Cooney before finding himself heavily outgunned in the final fight of his career, his 91-second loss to Mike Tyson. Spinks' 65.6 percent knockout rate is nearly the equal of the light heavyweight division's most feared puncher, Bob Foster, who stopped 70.8 percent of his opponents.

#42 ADONIS STEVENSON
(29-2-1, 24 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2006-2018

Despite a late start, Stevenson wasted no time establishing his reputation as a fearsome puncher, winning his pro debut in 22 seconds. Seven years later and now 35, Stevenson moved from super middleweight to light heavyweight and needed just 76 seconds to become the Ring Magazine/WBC champion, blasting Chad Dawson with an explosive left cross. Before the fight, Dawson had bragged he had to Google Stevenson's name because he'd never heard of him. Barely a minute after facing him, he wished that was still the case. Stevenson had incredibly fast hands that packed concussive power in both fists, knocking out 75 percent of the 32 opponents he faced. He would go on to reign for five years, successfully defending the lineal title nine times, six by knockout, before age and Oleksandr Gvozdyk caught up with him on December 1, 2018. At 41 years old, Stevenson fought bravely but was dropped in the third round before Gvozdyk stopped him with a 10-punch barrage in the 11th that sent Stevenson to the floor. At the time of the stoppage, Stevenson led on two of the three judges' cards and the fight was even on the third. Hospitalized with life-threatening injuries and put into a medically induced coma, he would never fight again, but Stevenson made a remarkable near-full recovery that epitomized his nickname of "Superman."



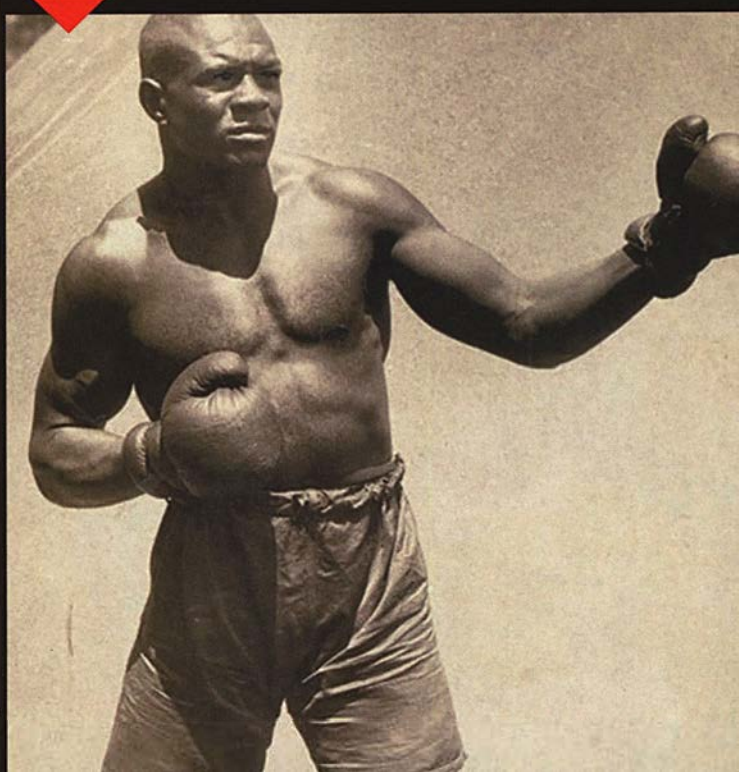
#43 ELMER RAY
(97-23-11, 69 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1933-1949

Ray was considered one of the hardest-punching heavyweights of the 1930s and '40s and he had 69 knockouts to prove it. His third-round stoppage of Larry Lovett in 1944 was typical of his performances. That night, Ray avenged a points loss to Lovett from a year earlier by dropping him eight times in less than three rounds before the fight was stopped. Ray was one of many victims of the color line that prevented top black fighters from getting deserved title shots. His nickname of "Kid Violent" was also a good part of the reason why. He did defeat both Ezzard Charles and Jersey Joe Walcott on points before they were champions, but his world title hopes ended when Charles knocked him out in a rematch. Ray was the division's No. 2 contender at the time. Nearly two-thirds of Ray's victories ended by KO, including a total destruction of future heavyweight title challenger Lee Savold at 1:39 of the second round in 1946 and a crushing second-round KO of Pete Louthis, whom he dropped twice in the first round and four times in the second. "Kid Violent" indeed.

NOS. 41-50 BY BY RON BORGES

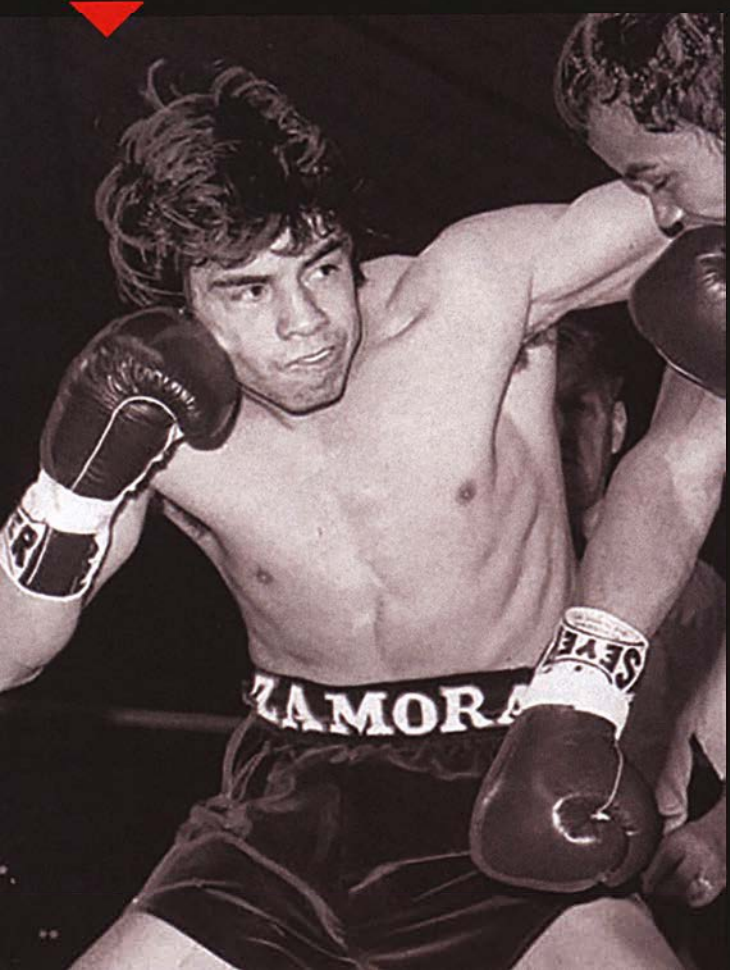
#44 GEORGE GODFREY
(97-21-2, 79 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1919-1937

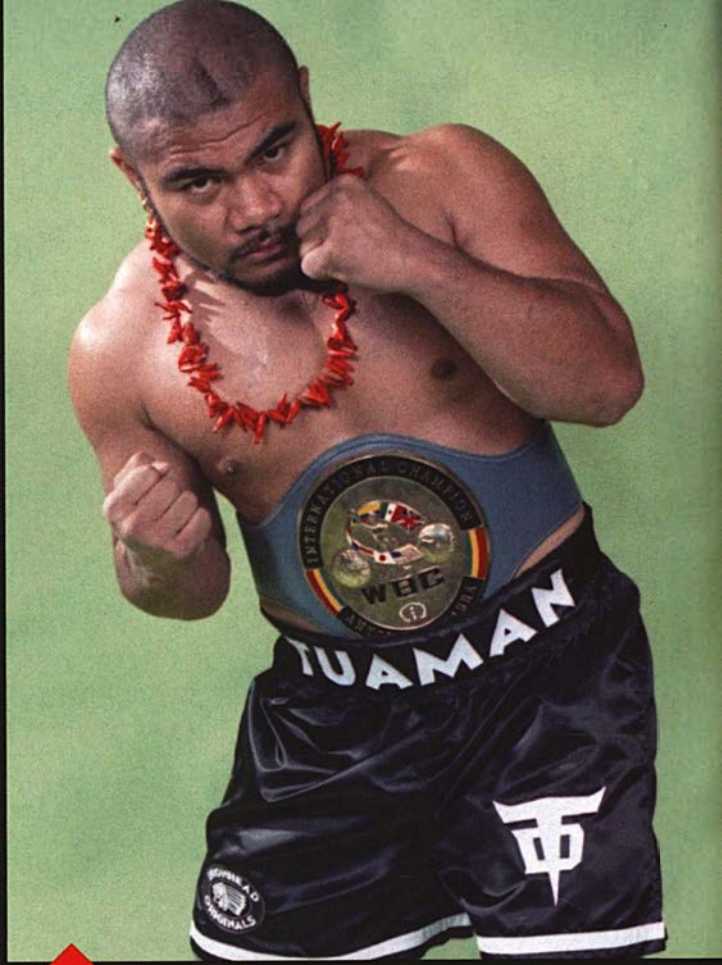
Godfrey began boxing in the military during World War I. At 6-foot-3, 240 pounds, he was a big heavyweight for his day and had heavy hands to go with it, as evidenced by his 63.7 knockout percentage. He once knocked out poor Jim Maloney so convincingly with two crushing right hands that it took 10 minutes to revive him. Known as "The Leiperville Shadow," Godfrey's real name was Feab Smith Williams, but he took the name of the original George Godfrey to honor a bare-knuckle era fighter once crowned "colored heavyweight champion" back when black fighters were totally avoided by white fighters who held the recognized heavyweight title. Godfrey twice held the same championship as his namesake, and both of those victories came by knockout, stopping Larry Gains in six rounds in 1926 and Seal Harris in two in 1931. Perhaps his greatest display of power came when he was disqualified for a low blow against Gains in a 1928 fight in Canada. The Toronto Globe newspaper reported the blow was so powerful that "it dented Gains' aluminum cup." That kind of power made him a big draw. In 1928, he attracted a California record crowd of 40,000 to Wrigley Field in Los Angeles, where he outpointed European champion Paulino Uzcudun. Sadly, he was involved in what was widely believed to be a fixed fight with future heavyweight champion Primo Carnera in 1930 at Shibe Park in Philadelphia, getting himself disqualified for a low blow after dominating the fight. Sportswriter Grantland Rice called the blow "either deliberate or Godfrey is the wildest swinger the ring has ever seen." Godfrey was elected to the International Boxing Hall of Fame in 2007.



#45 ALFONSO ZAMORA
(33-5, 32 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1973-1980

Zamora was not called "El Toro" for nothing. He not only charged his opponents like a bull, he hit like one. Zamora was a thunderous puncher with incredible power for a bantamweight, a point made clear by his 84.2 percent knockout ratio. Perhaps his most concussive moment came when he hit Eusebio Pedroza like a wrecking ball during a WBA title fight in 1976, knocking him cold at 1:03 of the second round. Zamora began his career with 29 straight knockouts before facing also-undefeated Carlos Zarate in one of the bantamweight division's greatest fights. Zamora was only 23 years old, and Zarate, just shy of 26 himself, had nearly twice as many knockouts (45). Although both held versions of the world title, the bout was a 10-round non-title match in which they ravaged each other for four rounds before Zarate stopped Zamora with a barrage of punches that put him down for the 10 count. Seven months later, Zamora was knocked out by Jorge Lujan in the 10th round and was considered finished. He was not. Zamora's last stand came 11 months later when he knocked out No. 1 contender Alberto Sandoval with a mind-numbing left hook followed by a blinding salvo of leather that ended the fight at 2:55 of the eighth round. Zamora was never given the rematch with Zarate that he earned that night.





#46 DAVID TUA
(52-5-2, 43 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1992-2013

Tua had a classic bob-and-weave style similar to Joe Frazier and used it to deliver a fearsome left hook. He had excellent hand speed during his prime and used it to deliver a career knockout percentage of 72.9 that included stopping four former or future world heavyweight titleholders: John Ruiz, Michael Moorer, Hasim Rahman and Oleg Maskaev. His assault of Ruiz was one of the most brutal in heavyweight history, a barrage of left hooks and right hands that knocked Ruiz cold only 19 seconds into the fight, making it one of the fastest KOs ever recorded in a major pro bout. He also destroyed Moorer in only 30 seconds, clipping him with a massive right hook and a burst of follow-up punches that sent Moorer through the ropes and dangling on his back half out of the ring. His stoppage of Rahman was nearly as imposing. He caught him with a left hook just as the bell sounded to end Round 9, and a minute was not enough time for Rahman to regain his senses. He was stopped 35 seconds into Round 10. Tua's lack of size and reach occasionally hurt his ability to deliver his concussive payload. That was especially true when he went the distance with Lennox Lewis in his lone title shot. Tua was the WBC and IBF No. 1 contender, but Lewis' 14-inch reach advantage allowed him to avoid Tua's power shots by keeping him at a distance for 12 rounds. For those who couldn't do that, David Tua often made it a short night for them.

NOS. 41-50 BY BY RON BORGES

#47 LENNOX LEWIS
(41-2-1, 32 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1989-2003

One of the first truly towering heavyweights who was also athletic, Lewis was a clever and patient tactician armed with a concussive straight right often hidden behind his long jab. His knockout of Hasim Rahman that avenged a KO loss seven months earlier was a textbook on how to knock a man literally stiff. When a sweeping right hand to the face landed, Rahman fell flat on his back, tried to get up and fell over again to end the night. Because of his size, Lewis needed distance to land that long right and, because he was cautious by nature, it often took him time to find it. When he did, it usually led to concussive results. He knocked out Razor Ruddock 46 seconds into the second round of a WBC title eliminator in 1992, dropping him just before the end of the first round and twice more in the second, and when Riddick Bowe gave up the belt rather than face the winner, Lewis became the first British-born heavyweight champion since Bob Fitzsimmons in 1897. He similarly destroyed Andrew Golota, Tommy Morrison and Michael Grant, knocking them down a combined 10 times over a total of nine rounds. Morrison went six of those and was knocked down four times for his trouble (which was considerable). Lewis' total annihilation of Mike Tyson in 2002 was his crowning moment, slicing deep cuts above both of Tyson's eyes before leaving him flat on his back as referee Eddie Cotton counted him out in Round 8. Had he been bolder, Lewis might have won all but a couple bouts by stoppage.

#48 JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ
(107-6-2, 85 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1980-2005

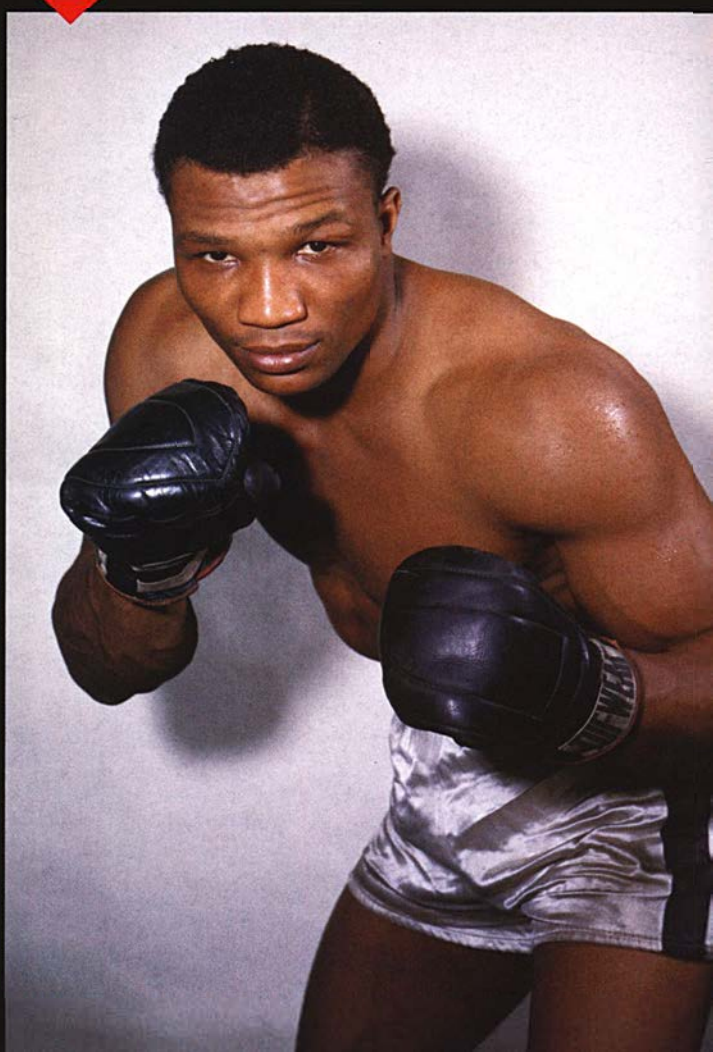
A relentless pressure fighter, Chavez was a vicious body-puncher with a left hook that broke opponents' ribs and hearts. That devastating hook allowed him to deliver the second-most title defense wins by KO in history (21), trailing only Joe Louis (25). "You didn't get caught up with him going toe-to-toe," Pernell Whitaker once said of Chavez. His one-punch stoppage of Meldrick Taylor with only two seconds left in their junior welterweight unification fight came after an assault to the body and head that left Taylor bleeding from his mouth and internally. Chavez's power was first on full display when he won his first title, the WBC junior lightweight belt, from Mario Martinez in 1984. Chavez battered him until referee John Thomas called a halt as the bell ended Round 8. A three-division champion, Chavez's power buckled Roger Mayweather twice, stopping him in both 130- and 140-pound title fights. His most overpowering moment was his one-sided beatdown of Edwin Rosario, whom Chavez methodically broke to pieces. A reporter from The Ring at the time wrote, "A description of the fight reads like a police account of a street beating." That's how the majority of Chavez's fights could have been described.

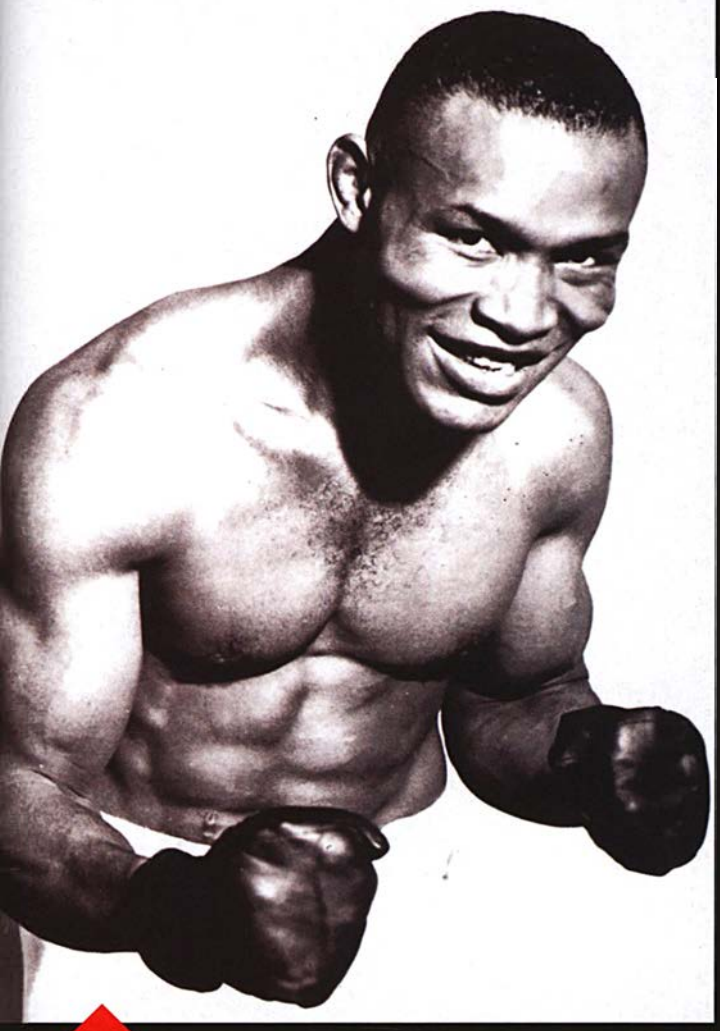
#49 NONITO DONAIRE
(42-6, 28 KOs) · ACTIVE: 2001-PRESENT

Donaire's fabulous hand speed has always been the key to his power. And unlike many fighters, he carried both speed and power all the way up from flyweight to junior featherweight. Last year, he became the oldest bantamweight titleholder in history when he stopped undefeated Nordine Oubaali in the fourth round, first knocking him down with 45 seconds left in Round 3 with his signature left hook. He dropped him again at the bell, and a crushing uppercut finished the job at 1:52 of Round 4, giving the 38-year-old Donaire the bantamweight title for a third time. The win also made him only the sixth fighter to hold world titles in three different decades. Bullied as a kid, Donaire began boxing at 11 and found he had surprising punching power. Thirteen years later, he won his first title, delivering a spectacular knockout of flyweight Vic Darchinyan with a perfectly placed counter left hook in the fifth round. Darchinyan struggled to get up and fell face-first twice before rising and walking blindly into the ropes. "When he hit his face on the floor the second time, I knew I was a world champion," Donaire said of The Ring's 2007 KO of the Year. The "Filipino Flash" would win three title defenses by KO before moving his way up the scale and knocking out Fernando Montiel with one stinging left hook to win his first bantamweight title (and earn his second KO of the Year award). He would later win the Ring Magazine junior featherweight championship and in his first defense convince Mexican warrior Jorge Arce to retire in the ring immediately after being knocked down three times and then knocked out at 2:59 of Round 3.

#50 CLEVELAND WILLIAMS
(80-13-1, 60 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1951-1972

Sonny Liston once called Williams the hardest puncher he ever faced, which is a pretty good endorsement of Williams' knockout prowess. So, too, is the fact that 75 percent of his victories came by KO. Known as "Big Cat," Williams was always on the prowl, often throwing punches in less than graceful fashion but with one thought in mind – going home early. "He was a genuine puncher," said George Foreman, who was a genuine puncher himself. Williams won 25 of his first 28 fights by knockout and at one point was 44-2 with 35 KOs. He lost twice to Liston but bloodied him in their first fight, leaving Liston to say after stopping Williams, "He treated me rudely in the first round." One of his biggest stoppages came midway through the seventh round of a fight with future heavyweight champion Ernie Terrell; Williams clipped Terrell with a right cross followed by a stinging left hook that ended the fight. Unfortunately, he is most famous for an overhead photo of him spread-eagled on the canvas at the Houston Astrodome, the victim of Muhammad Ali in a 1966 title fight when Williams was already past his prime. While that photo became iconic, Williams left many an opponent on the floor in a similar pose throughout his 20-year career.



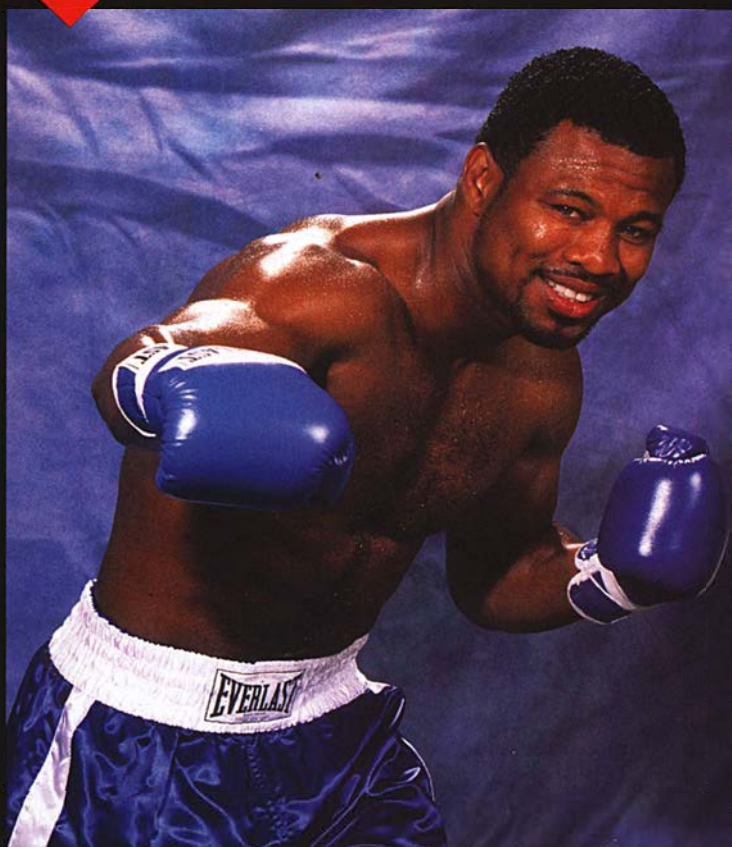


#51 TIGER JACK FOX
(138-24-12, 91 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1928-1950

Nobody knows exactly where he was born. Or when. His parents named him John Linwood. At least we think they did. But he's forever remembered as Tiger Jack Fox because of his power. That was no mystery. Jersey Joe Walcott found out just how real it was 14 years before he won the heavyweight title. Fox knocked out Walcott in the eighth round of a light heavyweight bout in 1937. Walcott remembered that power. At least it looked as if he did throughout a 10-round rematch a year later. A cautious Walcott played defense. It didn't matter. Fox won a decision. Fox, who got stopped (KO 3) by future champion John Henry Lewis in 1936, never won a sanctioned light heavyweight title. It was a racist era. Not even Fox could knock that out. But he did score a decision over Maxie Rosenbloom, then an ex-champion, in a direct rematch of a draw in 1935. Rosenbloom, nicknamed "Slapsie" for his open-gloved punches, was one of the few who slapped down Fox's power. He also beat Fox by decision in 1932. In 1939, Fox lost a bid for a vacant title. He got stopped (TKO 9) by Melio Bettina. It was reported that Fox had been stabbed near the heart a few months before the bout. Like so much about Fox, there were questions about the story. But never the heart, so big it's a wonder that the blade missed it.

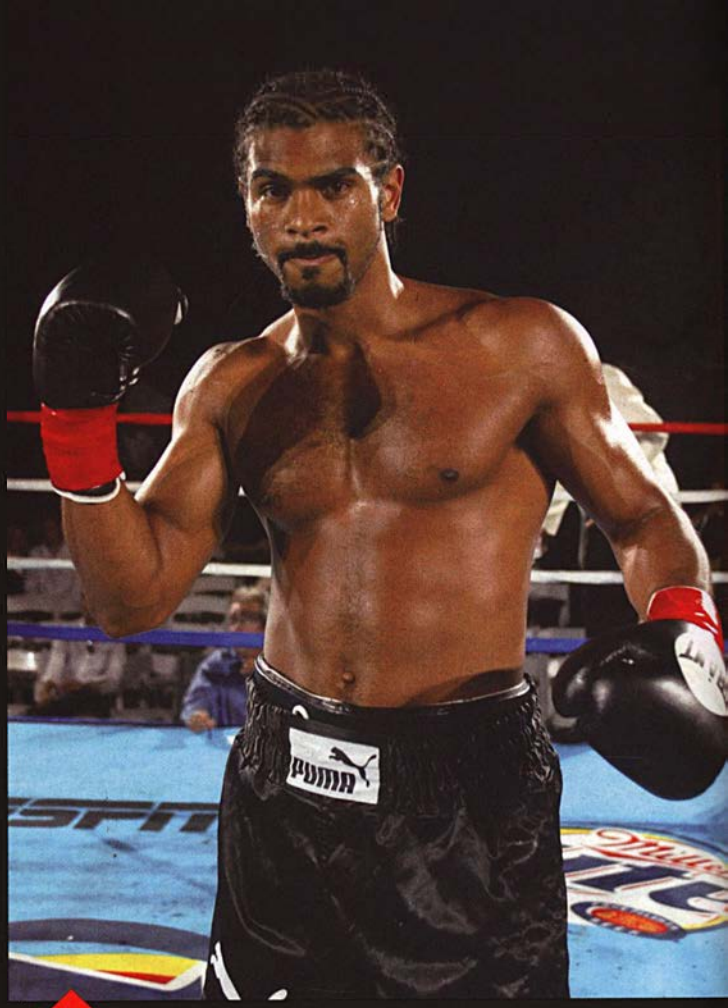
#52 SHANE MOSLEY
(49-10-1, 41 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1993-2016

"Sugar" Shane is perhaps best remembered for otherworldly hand speed, but his punching power was a serious asset. A former amateur standout with a 250-6 record in the unpaid ranks, Mosley turned professional as a lightweight and left a trail of destruction behind him. He stopped 22 of 23 opponents on his way to winning a 135-pound world title from capable Australian Phillip Holiday (UD 12) and halted eight consecutive challengers. His biggest moments took place in the divisions above. Mosley's defining triumph was an electrifying 12-round split decision win over boxing superstar Oscar De La Hoya for a welterweight title. He did come unstuck against Vernon Forrest twice (UD 12, UD 12), but Mosley would remain an elite-level player for several years. A controversial rematch win over De La Hoya (UD 12), for world titles at 154 pounds, was followed by disappointing points losses to the perpetually avoided Winky Wright. However, Mosley still managed to display his punching power at junior middleweight, scoring a pair of stoppage wins over Fernando Vargas (TKO 10, TKO 6) and a brutal last-second knockout over the bombastic Ricardo Mayorga (KO 12). In his last great effort, Mosley was a significant underdog against durable Mexican pressure-fighter Antonio Margarito. At Staples Center in L.A., site of his glorious first triumph over De La Hoya, Mosley turned back the clock and smashed Margarito from pillar to post en route to a dramatic ninth-round stoppage win.

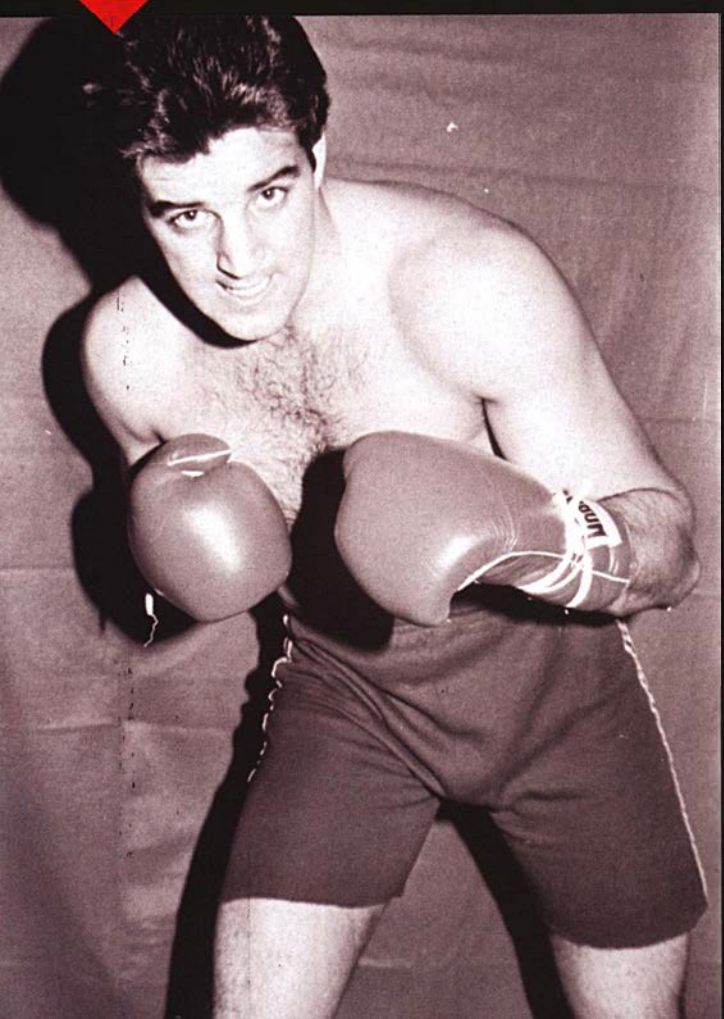


NOS. 51-60 BY NORM FRAUENHEIM

#53 GERRY COONEY
(28-3, 24 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1977-1990



Mention Gerry Cooney, and you'll get an argument about how good he was, or about all the reasons he never won a heavyweight title, or whether he was really The Great White Hype. But there's no debate about one thing: His left hand was no hype. It was deadly. When working, it was as good as any in the heavyweight division. It's a reason for his head-rocking knockout rate. In 1980, he stopped two one-time title challengers, Jimmy Young (TKO 4) and then Ron Lyle (KO 1). Next: Ken Norton, an ex-champion known for breaking Muhammad Ali's jaw. It took Cooney 54 seconds to finish Norton, a record for a heavyweight fight at New York's Madison Square Garden. But a 13-month layoff followed. There was little, if any, work done on adding something to the left. That proved devastating against the comprehensive skill set possessed by Larry Holmes, who defended the heavyweight championship (TKO 13) in a June 1982 bout as eagerly anticipated as it was controversial. Don King played the racial angle, marketing Cooney as "The Great White Hope." Cooney would later become friends with Holmes. But he was never the same in a career that George Foreman ended by second-round knockout.

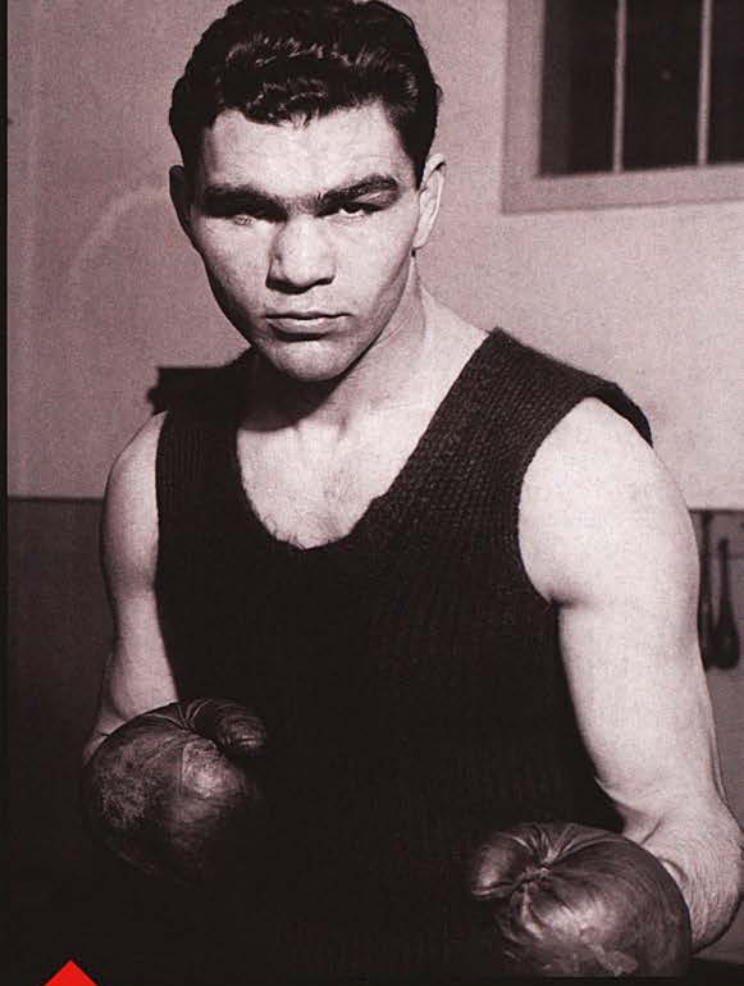


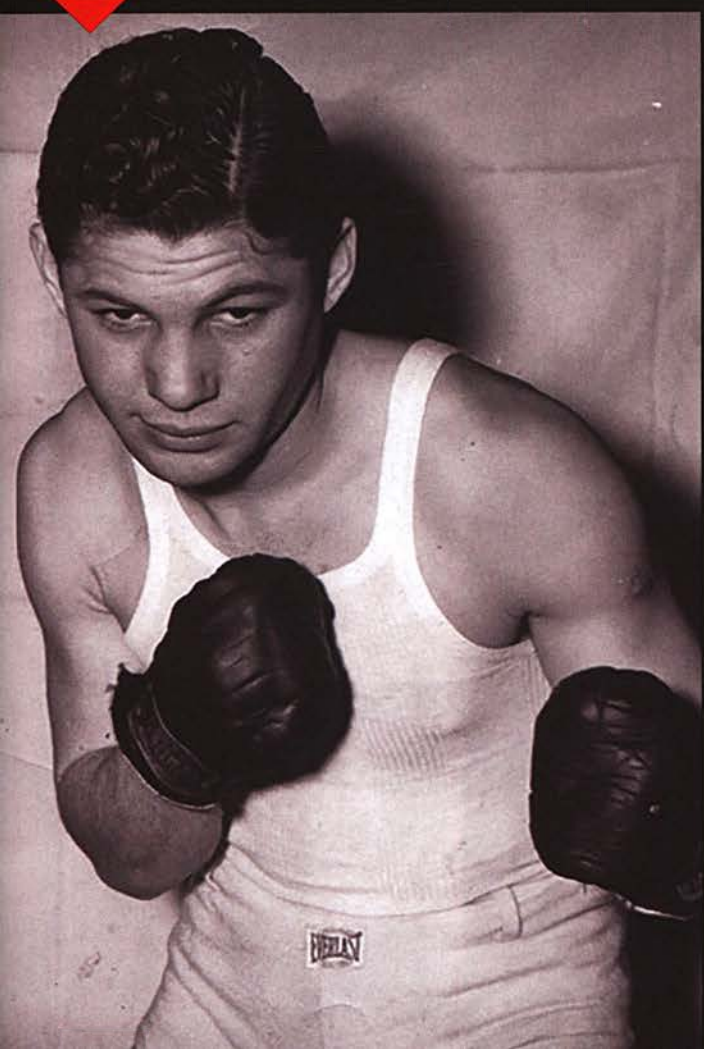
#54 DAVID HAYE
(28-4, 26 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2002-2018

He calls himself the "Hayemaker," which is another way of saying he raised hell in different ways and places. There was double-edged power in his words, enough to entertain and outrage. A fearless streak was powerful enough to beat a Russian who was nine inches taller and 99 pounds heavier. He had a big mouth and a big heart. Mostly, David Haye had a big punch. He used it to unify the cruiserweight title, getting up from a knockdown to score a stoppage (TKO 7) of Jean-Marc Mormeck in 2007 and following with a quicker stoppage (TKO 2) of Enzo Maccarinelli in 2008. Eight months later, he took aim at the glamour division with a stoppage (TKO 5) of heavyweight fringe contender Monte Barrett. Then he moved up – way up – to face Nikolai Valuev, who at 7 feet tall and 326 pounds is the biggest heavyweight titleholder ever. In 2009, Haye's power was late to land. Still, it was timely. In the 12th, he nearly brought the giant down like a lumberjack with a left for an axe. It was enough to ensure Haye a scorecard win (MD 12) and the WBA title. He defended it twice, stopping John Ruiz (TKO 9) and Audley Harrison (TKO 3). Wladimir Klitschko embarrassed him with a one-sided victory (UD 12) in 2011. Then Haye embarrassed himself, blaming a broken toe, an excuse that was historic for all the headlines it got. No toe ever kicked up so much publicity.

#55 AL "BUMMY" DAVIS
(65-10-4, 46 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1937-1945

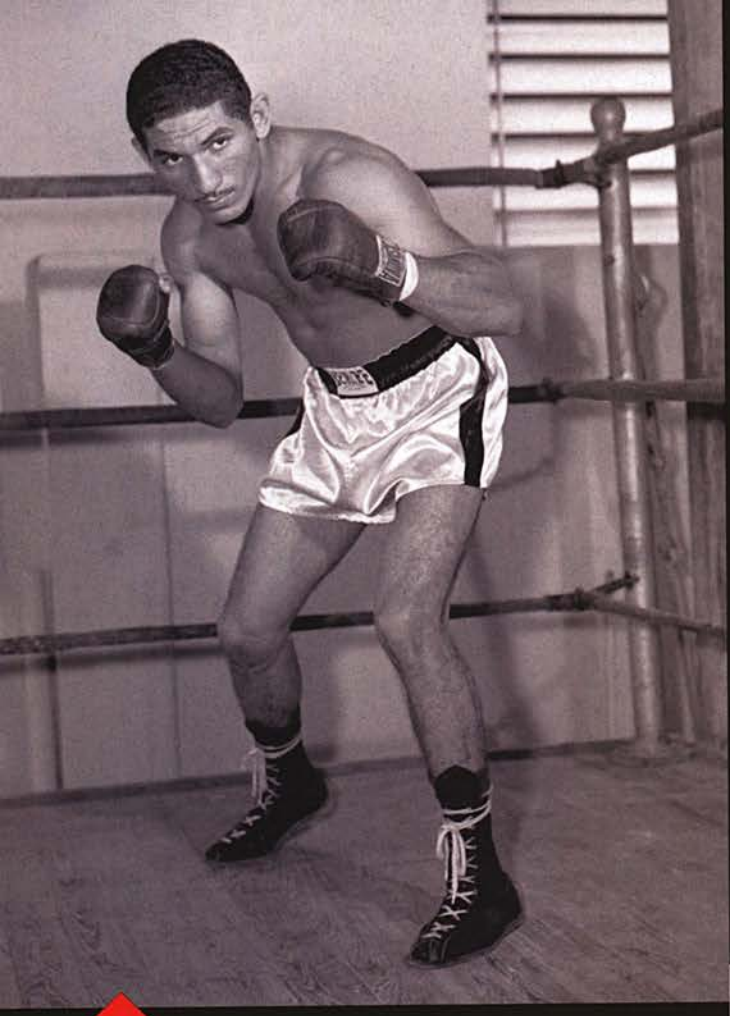
He had lots of roles. Good guy, bad guy, sometimes both all at once. For fans, he was often the "bum" in "Bummy," a moniker Albert Davidoff never wanted when the Jewish kid from Brooklyn's Brownsville neighborhood decided to fight under a different name. But it worked for Al Davis, who had abundant energy and a volatile temper. Above all, he was dangerous in a career as fascinating as it was brief. It was over a month after World War II. It would have been easy to forget him if not for his name and a left that kept him in fights. It accounted for a wickedly fast start, 21-0, 15 by stoppage. It was there in a 1939 stoppage (TKO 3) of Tony Canzoneri – a faded ex-champ, yet popular with fans who booed Davis. The left was not there for his first loss (UD 10) to ex-lightweight champ Lou Ambers in 1940. It was definitely there in a low-blow expression of anger that would lead to a second-round disqualification against future welterweight champ Fritzie Zivic. Davis went on, stopping heavily favored former lightweight champ Bob Montgomery in the first round. Losses to Beau Jack and Henry Armstrong followed. Tragically, he's remembered for fights he lost. And the life he lost. He was murdered, gunned down in a bar on November 21, 1945, a couple of months before his 26th birthday.





#56 MAX SCHMELING
(56-10-4, 39 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1924-1948

No historical list is complete without Max Schmeling. Other fighters had greater power. But Schmeling, a heavyweight from Nazi Germany, knocked out American icon Joe Louis in 1936 with a stoppage (KO 12) that was a step toward an even bigger stoppage – Louis scored it (TKO 1) two years later in a fight that made more than just boxing history. It was a cultural event, a precursor to world war and remembered by everybody from The Greatest Generation. Your great-grandfather could tell you where he was in 1938 when Louis avenged the loss. It wouldn't have happened without Schmeling's KO, which he set up when he noticed that Louis dropped his jab as he withdrew it. Signs of his power were there early. He won 13 of his first 14, 10 by stoppage. But his power didn't really get noticed until February 1929. He stopped Johnny Risko (TKO 9), a contender who had never been knocked out in 80 pro bouts. Schmeling dropped Risko four times. It was The Ring's Fight of the Year. A Fight of the Century loomed. First, however, Schmeling's power seemed to vanish. He was called the "low blow champion" for the title he won when Jack Sharkey was disqualified. Sharkey won a decision in the rematch. In 1933, Max Baer battered him around. Hitler probably booed. Schmeling went home, won three of four, studied film of Louis and waited for his chance. The rest is history.

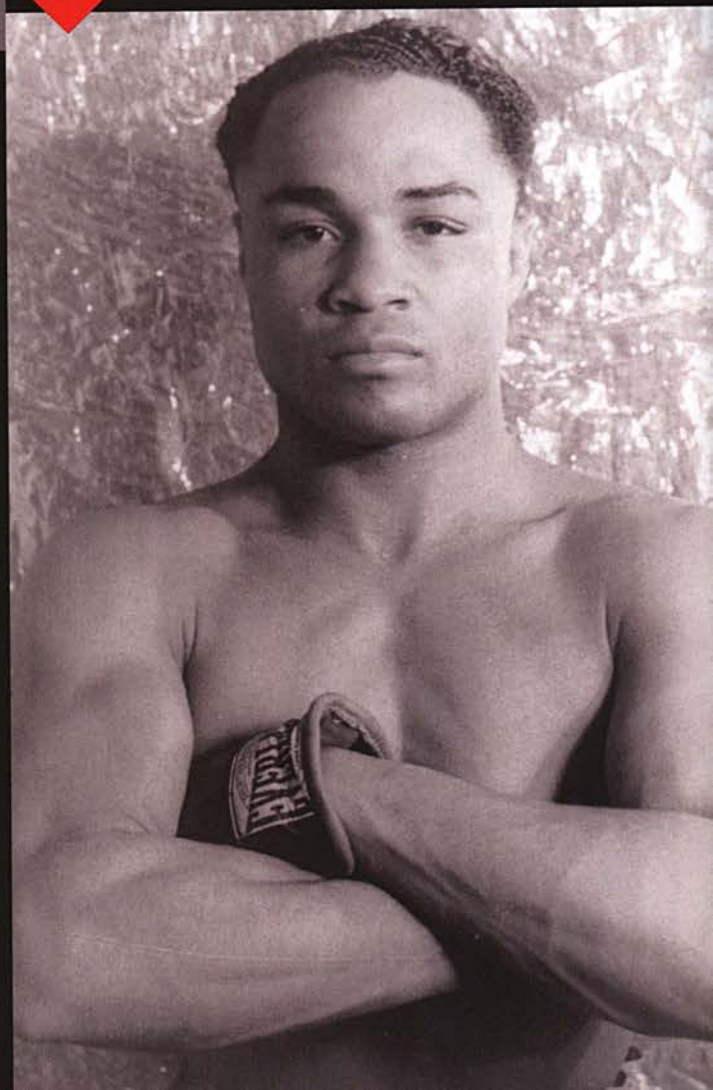


#57 FLORENTINO FERNANDEZ
(50-16-1, 43 KOs)
ACTIVE: 1956-1972

It's an island known mostly for Olympic gold medals. In a different time, Florentino Fernandez would have been one of the Cuban greats, maybe with as much Olympic fame as Teofilo Stevenson and Felix Savon. But bad timing in the form of a revolution forced him to flee. He had already established himself professionally with a powerful left, which was about the only thing he had in common with Fidel Castro. Castro's ascendancy meant Fernandez had to go. Castro took the prize out of fighting. He outlawed the pro game. In Havana, Fernandez was 23-0, 20 by stoppage, most of them the result of a vicious left hook. He moved to Miami in early 1960, fighting for the last time in his homeland in April of that year. But that left hook kept him gainfully employed for 12 more years. With Angelo Dundee in his corner, Fernandez would go on to score many more stoppages, including one (KO 5) of future light heavyweight champ Jose Torres in 1963 in Puerto Rico. But Fernandez would never win a title himself. He lost in his lone bid for a belt in 1961 to Gene Fullmer, who won a narrow decision and suffered a fractured elbow. Fernandez's pursuit of KOs was exciting, yet often reckless. He was stopped 10 times, three of them in 1962 – first by Dick Tiger (TKO 5), then by Joey Giambra (TKO 7) and finally by Rubin "Hurricane" Carter (KO 1).

#58 HENRY ARMSTRONG
(149-21-10, 99 KOs)
ACTIVE: 1931-1945

Boxing has produced bigger celebrities. Some bigger punchers, too. In terms of a ring resume, however, none is more comprehensive than Henry Armstrong's. There's not much he didn't do. He won titles at three weights during an era when there were no juniors or supers. If he had, he might have won belts in six, seven or eight divisions. Up-and-down the scale – from featherweight to welterweight to lightweight – his skill always had to include power. Without it, he could never have held all three titles all at once. Depending on the source, his record included 99 or 101 stoppages. Whatever the total, it's an astonishing number. Consider this: In 1937 alone, Armstrong was 27-0, 26 by stoppage, including one (KO 6) of Petey Sarron at Madison Square Garden for a 126-pound belt, Armstrong's first world title. In 1938, he went 14-0, 10 by stoppage. From December 1936 to October 1940, he went 59-1-1 with 51 stoppages. He scored 15 knockouts in his 19 welterweight title defenses. Overall, he fought in 26 world title fights, winning 22 – 17 by stoppage. It all adds up to great power and great punches from lots of angles.

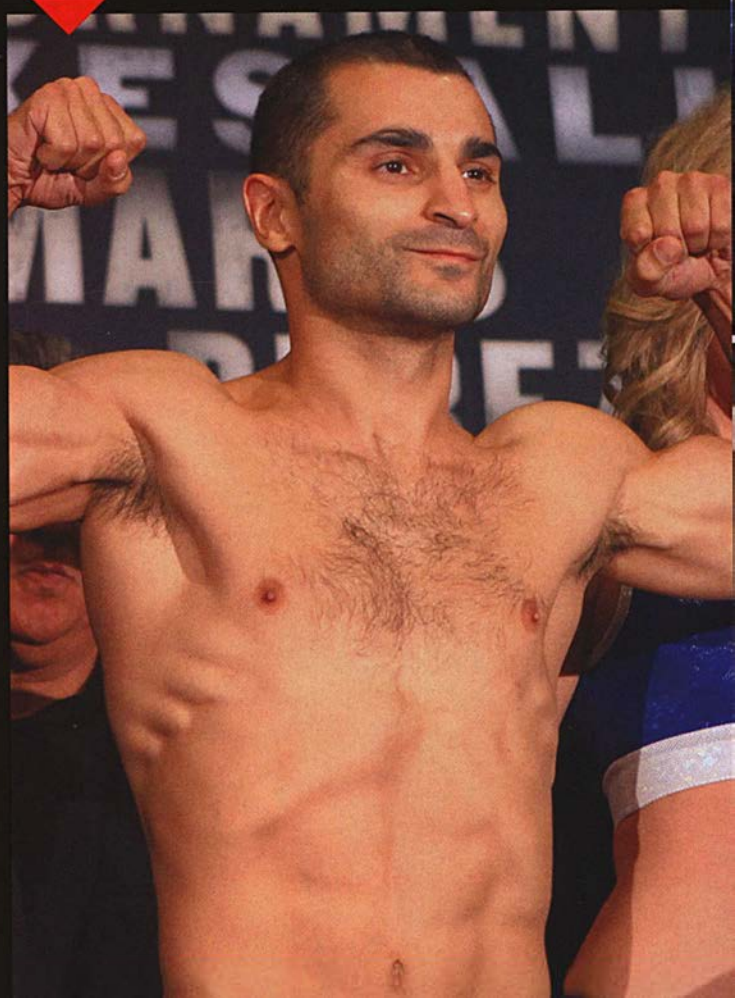


#59 ROY JONES JR.
(66-9, 47 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1989-2018

There's an oft-repeated theory: Speed equals power. Ever wonder what it means? Look at some video of Roy Jones Jr. At his best, Jones was the physical manifestation of the idea. He turned theory into reality. He began to apply the formula late in his days at middleweight. In 1994, there was a knockout (KO 6) of Danny Garcia followed by another (TKO 2) of Thomas Tate. Both are still trying to figure out what hit them. Then there was a move up to super middleweight against the dangerous James Toney. Jones, the underdog, didn't knock out Toney. But the speed-equals-power attack resulted in a third-round knockdown that left Toney confused and at the losing end of a one-sided decision. Jones was never better. He then went on a dazzling run, reeling off six successive stoppages – Antoine Byrd (TKO 1), Vinny Pazienza (TKO 6), Tony Thornton (TKO 3), Merqui Sosa (TKO 2), Eric Lucas (TKO 11) and Bryant Brannon (TKO 2). It was a pound-for-pound parade, straight to the top. Jones would go on to light heavy, winning a title and stopping Montel Griffin (KO 1) and Virgil Hill (KO 4). He even went to the top of the scale, winning a heavyweight title against John Ruiz. But that was more about the speed than the power. Jones was elusive enough to win a decision. That was one for the record books. But the KO run at super middleweight was one for the ages.

#60 VIC DARCHINYAN
(43-9-1, 32 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2000-2017

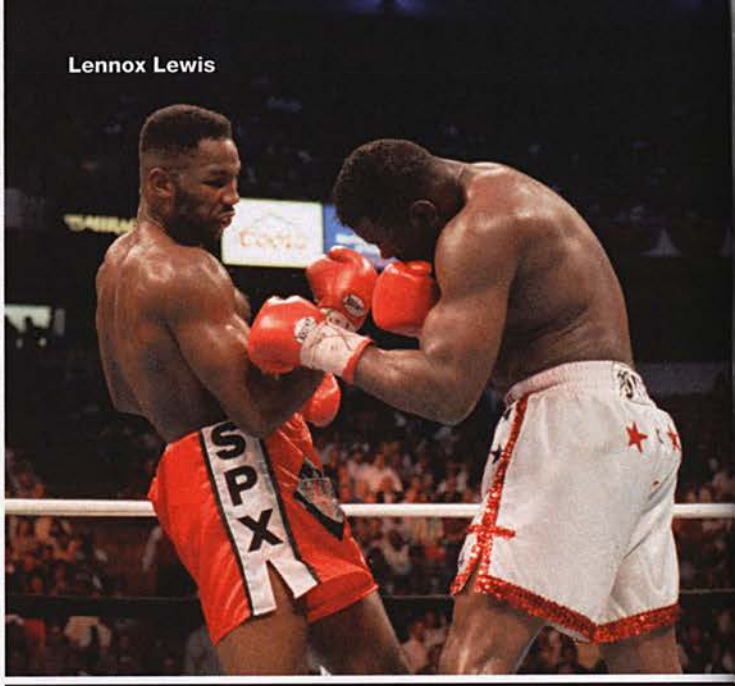
He held titles at two weights – 112 and 115. He was at his best at 115. Junior bantam suited Vic Darchinyan's aggressive style and power. The power was raw and often wild. The Australia-based Armenian was a relentless southpaw with an almost bewildering array of punching angles. It was evident at flyweight. He stopped longtime champion Irene Pacheco (TKO 11), who was previously unbeaten. Then he delivered a scary stoppage (TKO 12) of former junior flyweight champ Victor Burgos. Burgos was rushed to a hospital and underwent emergency surgery to remove a blood clot on his brain. He never fought again. Darchinyan then lost for the first time to Nonito Donaire – a knockout defeat that prompted him to move up the scale. The extra few pounds seemed to augment his power. He stopped Cristian Mijares (KO 9) in Carson, California, for three junior bantamweight belts. He stopped Jorge Arce (TKO 11) in Anaheim. But some of that power didn't follow him as he climbed to bantamweight, where he lost three title bouts via decision against quality opposition, and above. At featherweight he found himself out of his depth and was stopped in three high-profile bouts, including a rematch with Donaire (TKO 9).

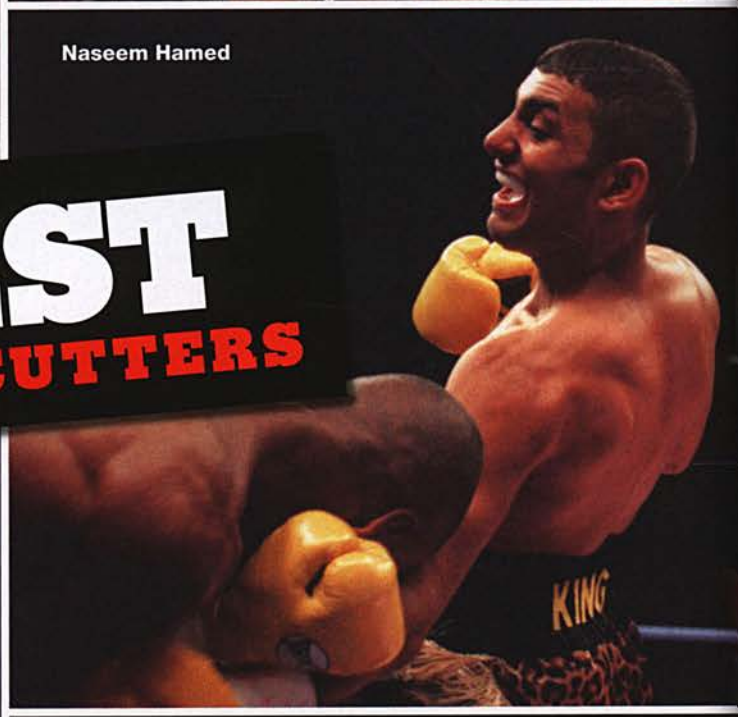


NOS. 51-60 BY NORM FRAUENHEIM

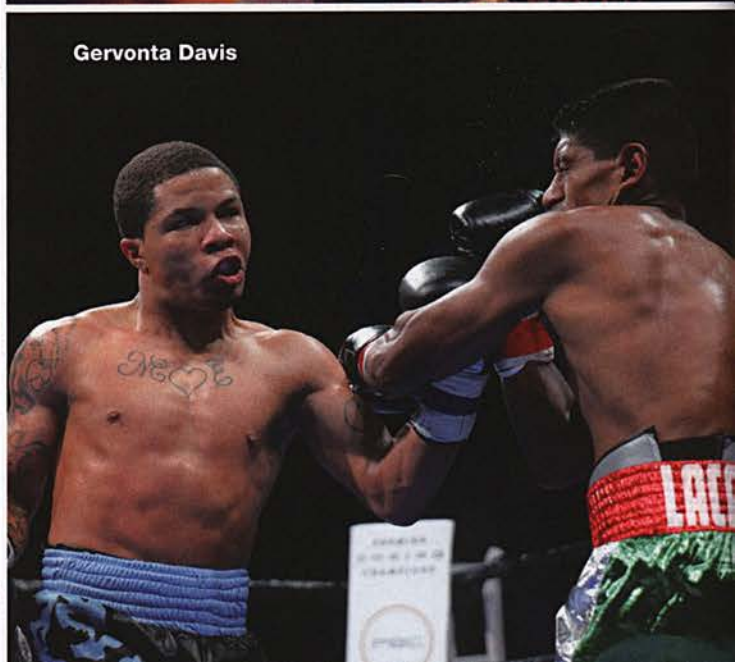
BEST UPPERCUTTERS

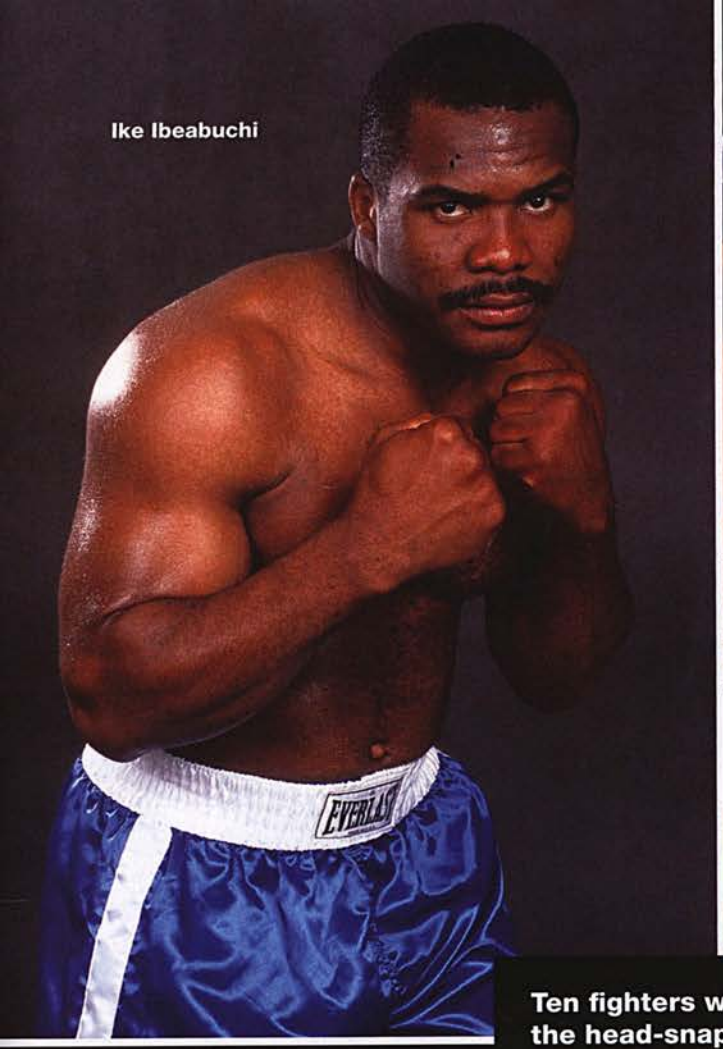
Mike Tyson


Lennox Lewis


Naseem Hamed

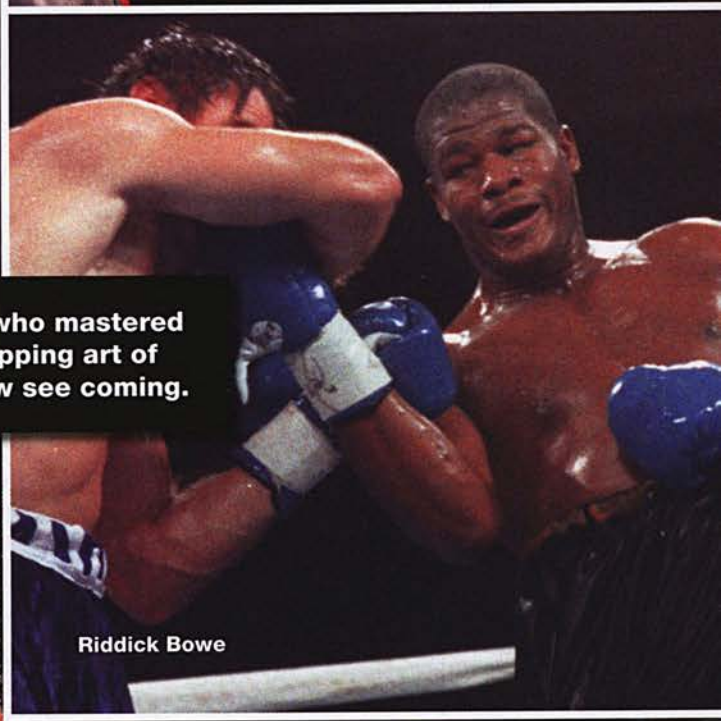
George Foreman


Gervonta Davis



Ike Ibeabuchi

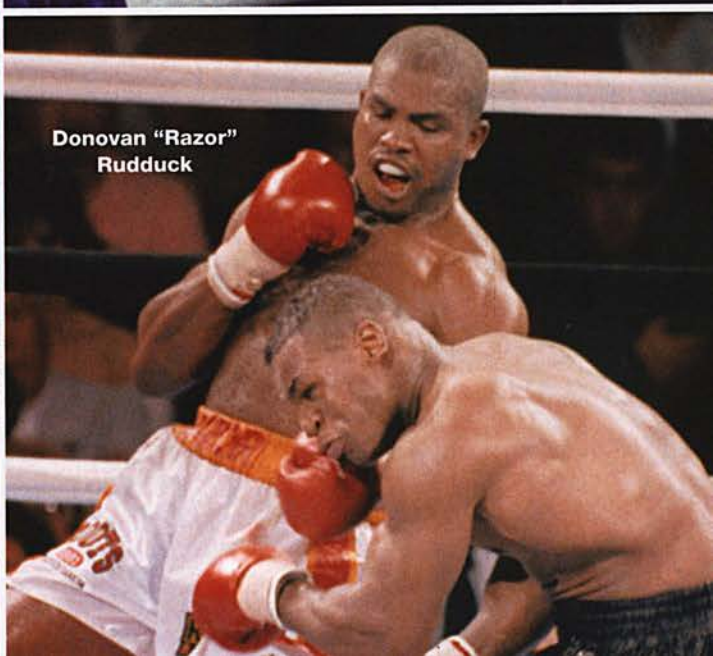
Roy Jones Jr.



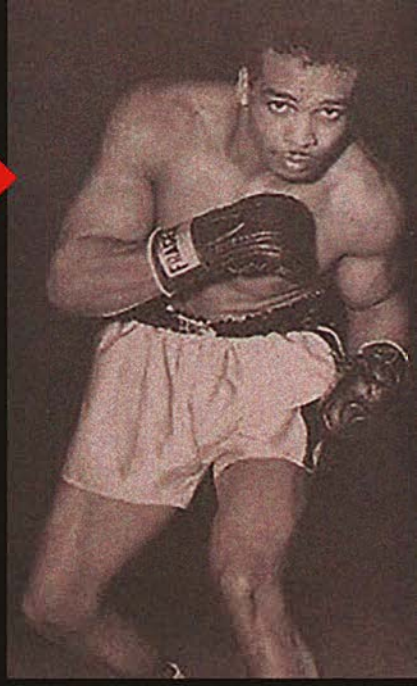
Riddick Bowe

Ten fighters who mastered the head-snapping art of the punch few see coming.

Nonito Donaire



Donovan "Razor" Rudduck



#61 BOB SATTERFIELD
(50-25-4, 35 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1945-57

Exploding out of a crouch, Chicago's Satterfield was there to get or get got. A sign of the career to come, Satterfield's first four professional fights all ended in the first round – Satterfield won three of them. He was 13-3-1 before he captured his first duke on points. Not every win was by knockout. Light heavyweight great Harold Johnson lost a decision to Satterfield, but Johnson was down along the way. Satterfield also won a decision over heavyweight contender Nino Valdes, giving up over 30 pounds. Of Satterfield's 25 losses, 13 came by knockout, rendering him one of the more crowd-thrilling fighters of his time. There would be a dozen first-round knockouts for Satterfield and several more inside three frames, with victims including the durable Oakland Billy Smith (KO 1) and aspiring heavyweight Cleveland Williams (KO 3). Williams outweighed Satterfield by more than 25 pounds. Satterfield had that kind of finishing kick.

#62 SERGEY KOVALEV
(34-4-1, 29 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2009-PRESENT

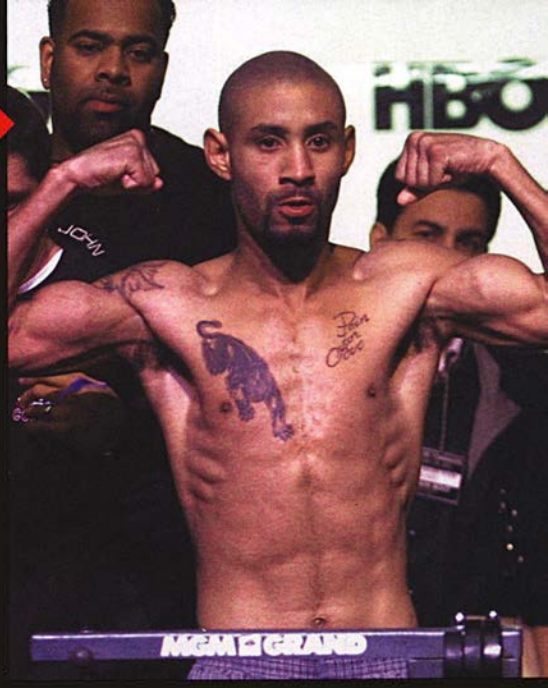
Russia's "Krusher" used a punishing left jab, keen boxing IQ and a desire to punish as one of the most feared light heavyweights of his time. Kovalev burst onto the scene with his knockout of former light heavyweight titlist Gabriel Campillo (TKO 3). Two fights later, Kovalev won his first title by handing WBO beltholder Nathan Cleverly his first knockout loss (TKO 4). While the older man was on his feet at the final bell, Kovalev was one of the few to ever drop Bernard Hopkins, adding the IBF and WBA belts to his collection. In title defenses, Kovalev then stopped former champion Jean Pascal twice (TKO 8 and TKO 7). They remain the only stoppage losses of Pascal's career. Andre Ward also touched the canvas early in Kovalev's first loss, a decision that still sparks debate. The rematch showed Kovalev vulnerable to the same thunder he could deliver; he has been stopped in three of seven bouts since the first loss to Ward.

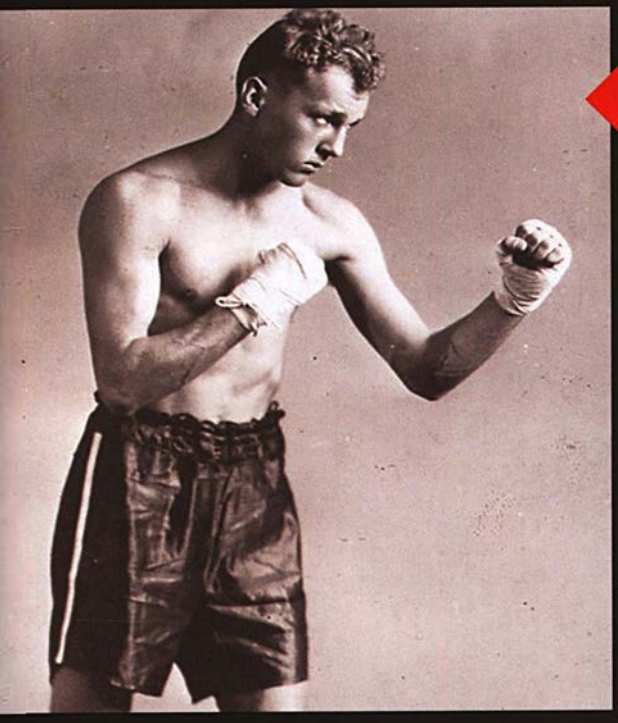
#63 WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO
(64-5, 53 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1996-2017

Dr. Steelhammer did it all in the boxing ring. Olympic gold medal … three belts unified … a lengthy run as Ring Magazine champion. He did the best of it after suffering three knockout losses in his first eight years as a professional, utilizing one of history's stiffest left jabs and hardest right hands. Klitschko's left hook wasn't bad either. If a sometimes-defensive approach obscured his offensive weapons, the results did not. Klitschko won 22 in a row between losses to Lamon Brewster and Tyson Fury, with 15 of those wins coming by knockout. Klitschko added the first knockout losses to the ledgers of Calvin Brock (TKO 7), Brewster in a return (TKO 6), Tony Thompson (KO 11), Ruslan Chagaev (TKO 9), Eddie Chambers (KO 12) and Kubrat Pulev (KO 5). While he didn't stop Alexander Povetkin, Klitschko dropped him four times. Brother Vitali had the higher knockout percentage, but it was Wladimir whose bombs rendered more highlight quality conclusions. When Wladimir landed flush, he tended to knock people stone-cold out.

#64 DIEGO CORRALES
(40-5, 33 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1996-2007

Had it been anyone else, the late Diego Corrales may have seen the towel thrown in earlier on the worst night of his career. The fight, against Floyd Mayweather Jr., made it to the 10th round in part because, with Corrales, fate could change in an instant. No moment better captured that essence than Corrales' win in the 21st century's best fight, when Sacramento's "Chico" came off the floor twice in the 10th round to let loose a volley of power shots that left Jose Luis Castillo out on his feet. Rail-thin and with shorter arms than his height might have foretold, Corrales' punishing right hand and jarring left hook beat most of the best of a stacked era at 130 and 135 pounds, with belts in both divisions to prove it. Corrales came from behind to knock out undefeated Robert Garcia for his first title at junior lightweight (TKO 7), forced a surrender from undefeated Acelino Frietas for his first at lightweight (TKO 10), and undid other solid veterans like Angel Manfredy (TKO 3) and Derrick Gainer (TKO 3) in short order.



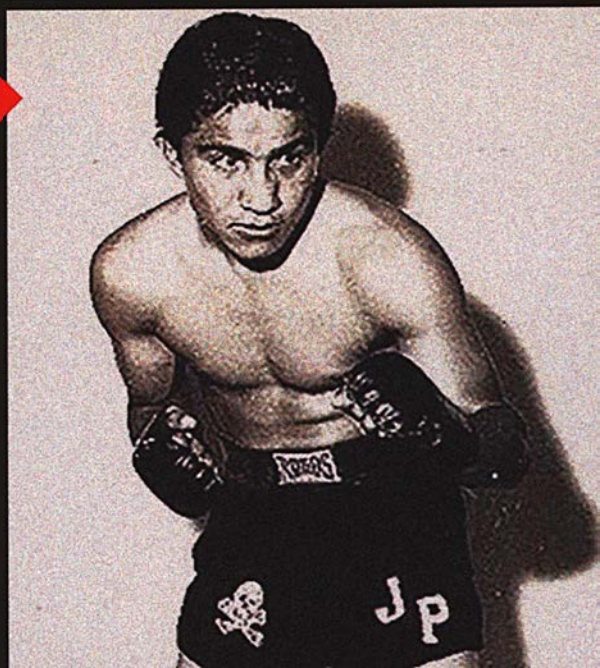


#65 AL HOSTAK
(64-9-11, 41 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1932-1949

Seattle's "Savage Slav" came of age in a deep, if fragmented, period for the championship picture in middleweight history. Hostak made his mark with a sensational right hand in the second half of the 1930s with a 16-knockout streak from November 1936 to September 1938. In that streak, Hostak handed knockout losses to Young Terry (TKO 2), Babe Risko (KO 7) and Freddie Steele (KO 1), dusting the venerable Steele in less than two minutes. Hostak suffered a loss to Solly Krieger before another streak of four knockout wins, including revenge against Krieger (TKO 4), before meeting Hostak's toughest obstacle, Tony Zale. Zale bested Hostak in all three of their fights, twice by stoppage, but found himself on the deck the third time around. Hostak kept knocking out most everyone else he faced. He posted one more KO streak after World War II but never quite had the consistency of his pre-war years again. Hostak finished his career with one more knockout of Jack Snapp (KO 9) in 1949.

#66 JESUS PIMENTEL
(76-7, 68 KOs) · ACTIVE: 1960-1971

With a nickname like "Little Poison Chucho," it wasn't hard to believe danger was coming. One of Mexico's most fearsome bantamweights of the 1960s, Pimentel made a habit of lengthy knockout runs. From August 1961 to a decision loss to Jose Medel in December 1965, Pimentel went 38-0 with 35 knockouts, including a streak of 28 KOs in a row. Pimentel rebounded from the loss to Medel with wins in 13 of his next 15 starts, all by knockout. During both KO streaks, Pimentel handed contenders Ray Asis (KO 6) and Mimoun Ben Ali (TKO 9) their first knockout losses. Pimentel never won a world title, but he finally got a shot in his final professional start. Riding a 15-fight winning streak with another 13 knockout wins, Pimentel suffered only the second knockout loss of his career at the hands of another Mexican knockout artist, the great Ruben Olivares.



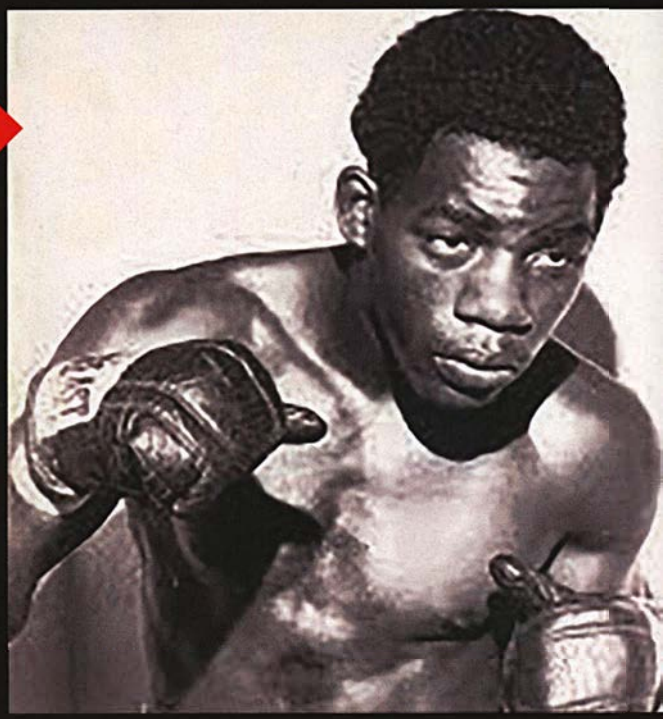
NOS. 61-80 BY CLIFF ROLD

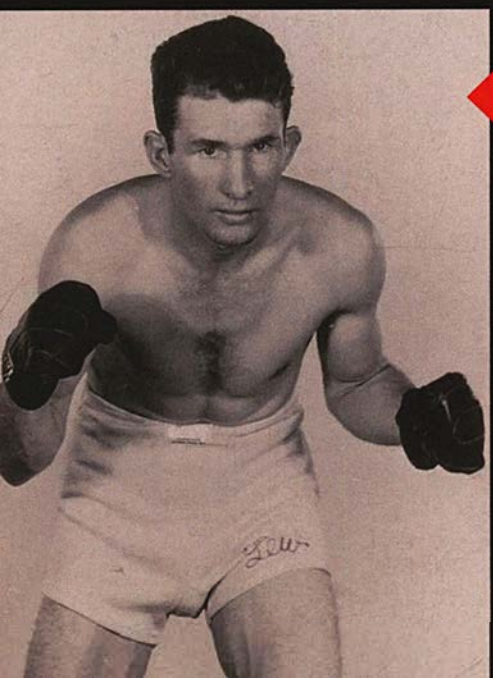
#67 ACELINO FREITAS
(41-2, 34 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1995-2017

Equipped with a spine-chilling right hand and star charisma, Brazil's "Popo" was already 29-0 before he ever had to worry about hearing the judges' scores at the end of the night. His power could be frightening. Anatoly Alexandrov had never been stopped. Freitas sent him out of the ring on a stretcher after less than two minutes. Javier Jauregui and Daniel Alicea were capable professionals. They didn't hear the bell for the end of the first round either. In his most dramatic win, Freitas came off the floor in Rounds 8 and 11 to score an 11th-round knockdown of Jorge Barrios at the bell with a right that echoed through the arena. Barrios never recovered and was stopped in the final frame. Freitas didn't just have to rely on knockouts, however. He partially unified the junior lightweight crown against previously unbeaten Joel Casamayor and handed Artur Grigorian his only loss to win the WBO lightweight title, both on points.

#68 EUGENE "CYCLONE" HART
(30-9-1, 28 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1969-1982

There are multiple fighters in this issue who could be said to have entered the ring looking to either end things early or get knocked out trying. The career of Philadelphia's Hart is an example of a fighter who almost did just that in every fight. Hart, equipped with an electric left hook, heard the judges' cards only four times in 40 fights. Twice he won, once he lost, and during the other 10 rounds, he and "Bad" Bennie Briscoe couldn't sort things out, so they settled for a draw in November 1975. The only other time a Hart fight didn't end by knockout, he dropped Denny Moyer early but the fight was ruled a "no contest" when both men fell out of the ring. Hart didn't stop a lot of big names, but the men who stopped him were largely a who's who of the era, including Briscoe in a rematch, Marvelous Marvin Hagler, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Bobby Watts and Vito Antuofermo.

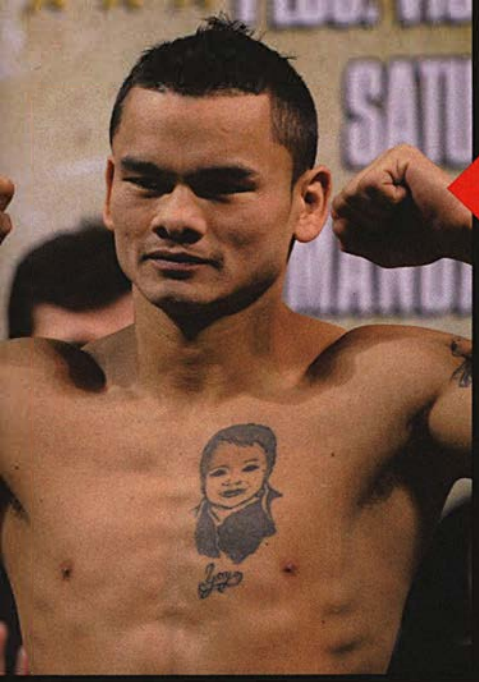




#69 LEW JENKINS
(74-41-5, 52 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1935-1950

Lew Jenkins didn't win them all. But when he did, the "Sweetwater Swatter" was probably getting it done with the stick of dynamite at the end of his right arm. Lightweight great Lou Ambers faced them all in a career lasting over 100 fights, including Henry Armstrong, Tony Canzoneri, Jimmy McLarnin … many of them more than once. Only one man ever stopped Ambers. Jenkins did it twice, shocking Ambers for the lightweight title in 1940 (TKO 3) and then again the following year (TKO 7). The first win over Ambers capped an eight-fight knockout streak for Jenkins. The streak was ended by one of the greatest fighters ever, Henry Armstrong, in a clash of the lightweight and welterweight kings. There were other notable victims. Ginger Foran had been stopped only once in more than 80 fights; Jenkins did him in four. Mike Belloise left the ring on a stretcher. Tippy Larkin, a stalwart contender in his time, didn't make it out of the first. Jenkins' right hand still echoes decades later.

NOS. 61-80 BY CLIFF ROLD

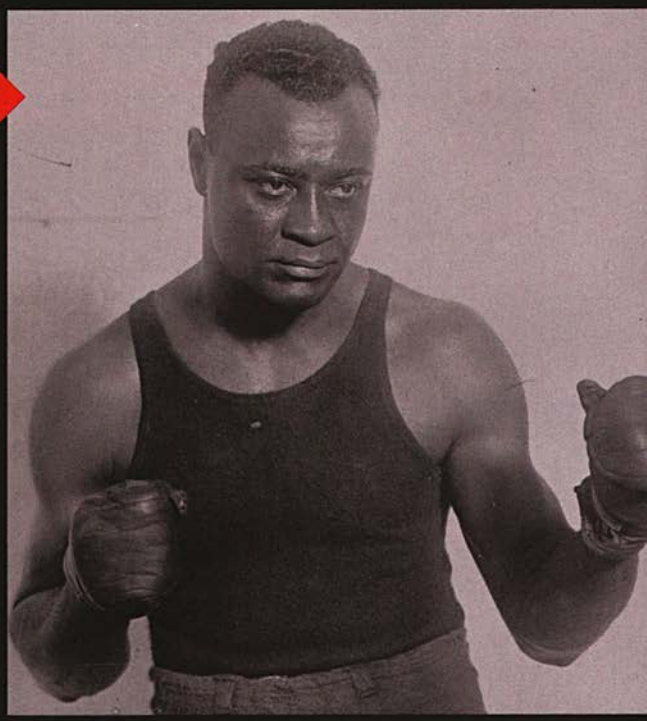


#70 MARCOS MAIDANA
(35-5, 31 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2004-2014

Argentina's "El Chino" had the kind of heavy hands that made opponents rethink their life choices. After a memorable battle that saw both men on the floor multiple times, Victor Ortiz had his will broken in the sixth. "I don't think I deserve to be getting beat up like this," Ortiz said after the fight to HBO's Max Kellerman. It was a sentiment other Maidana foes could relate to, win or lose, including Amir Khan and Floyd Mayweather. No one had it easy with Maidana. Maidana favored his right hand, but his left was nearly as dangerous, and he wasn't just a big puncher. He was a relentless attacker and an entertainer. In the biggest win of his career, Maidana challenged Adrien Broner for the WBA welterweight title. Broner, always a showman, decided to apply a dry hump out of a clinch in the first. Maidana dropped him with lefts in the second and eighth, then delivered a revenge dry hump in the 11th en route to a decision win.

#71 HARRY WILLS
(70-9-3, 56 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1911-1932

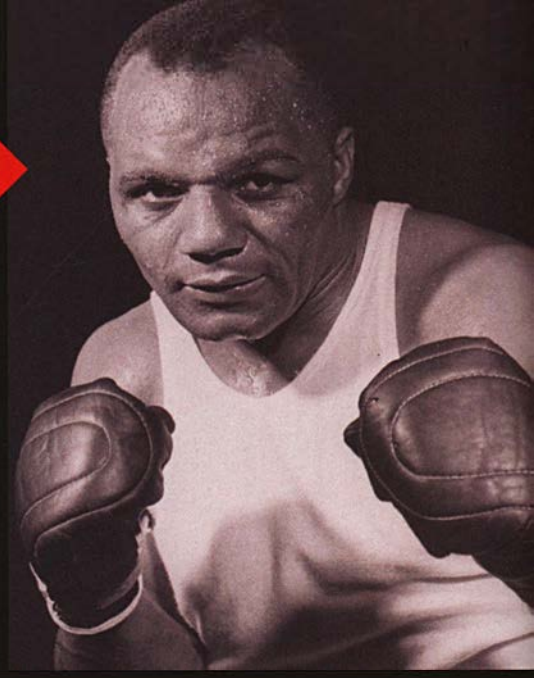
In a more just world, we'd know for sure who the best heavyweight of the late 1910s and '20s was. Respect for the position of champion gives a name like Dempsey extra luster, but his title will always have an asterisk. Dempsey was a color-line champion who for years didn't see his most-deserving challenger on the other side of the line. Big for the era at 6-foot-3 and more than 200 pounds, Wills was described by famed Ring Magazine editor Nat Fleischer in Black Dynamite as "fairly agile, a good boxer, and a ponderous puncher with either hand. His favorite method of operation was to close in on an opponent, grab and hold him with his left hand, and club away with his right to the head and body." New Orleans' "Black Panther" was denied the title shot he earned with knockouts of other Hall of Fame greats victimized by the color line, like Sam Langford, Sam McVea and Kid Norfolk, among a wide range of excellent victories.



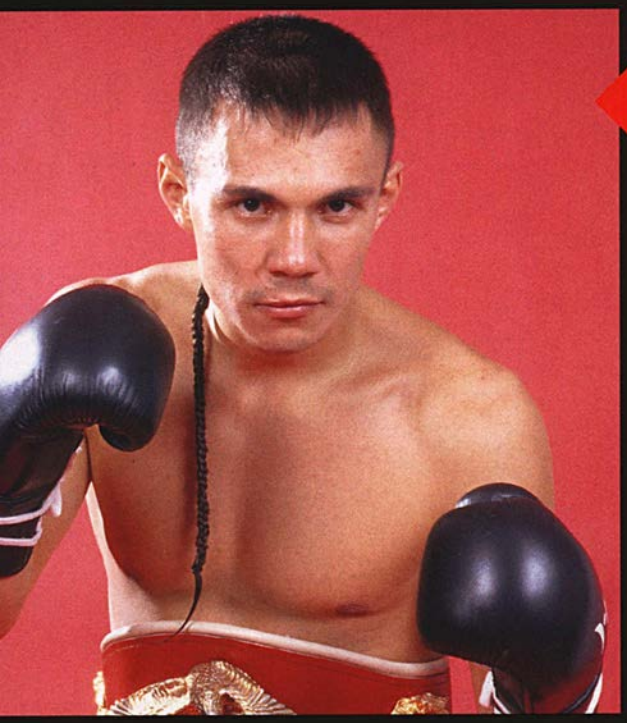
#72 OSCAR DE LA HOYA
(39-6, 30 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1992-2008

The "Golden Boy" turned heads winning gold at the 1992 Olympics. He busted heads with flair as a professional. As a young lightweight, De La Hoya destroyed veterans Jorge Paez (KO 2), Rafael Ruelas (TKO 2), and Jesse James Leija (TKO 2). Those weren't men who fans saw headed for the showers inside two rounds. De La Hoya shattered the nose of the late Genaro Hernandez so badly that Hernandez, who was unbeaten going into their showdown, couldn't go on. He scored stoppages from junior lightweight to junior middleweight against world-class opponents including Julio Cesar Chavez (TKO 4, TKO 8), Wilfredo Rivera (TKO 8), Oba Carr (TKO 11), Fernando Vargas (TKO 11) and Ricardo Mayorga (TKO 6). Even when he didn't win by knockout, the left hook was there. In a memorable affair, both De La Hoya and Ike Quartey hit the deck in the sixth. Needing a statement late, De La Hoya landed a left hook to drop Quartey a second time and set up a furious closing assault to secure a decision.

#73 JERSEY JOE WALCOTT
(49-20-1, 31 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1930-1953



With a little different luck, the man born Arnold Cream, who carried power in both hands, might well have been a two-time heavyweight champion. Walcott dropped Joe Louis twice in their first encounter only to lose a decision still regarded as one of history's most unfair. He dropped Louis again in the rematch before Louis solved his riddle and stopped him in the 11th. All three knockdowns came on right hands. Before Louis, Walcott's pop delivered a knockdown on the way to a decision win ending a 24-fight unbeaten streak for Jimmy Bivins. Walcott's most famous single punch was one that delivered the heavyweight crown in his fifth opportunity: After two decision losses to Ezzard Charles for the title, Walcott landed a left hook for the ages to become the then-oldest heavyweight champion at age 37 (KO 7). Walcott also had Rocky Marciano down with a left hook in the first on the night he lost the crown.



#74 KOSTYA TSZYU
(31-2, 25 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1992-2005

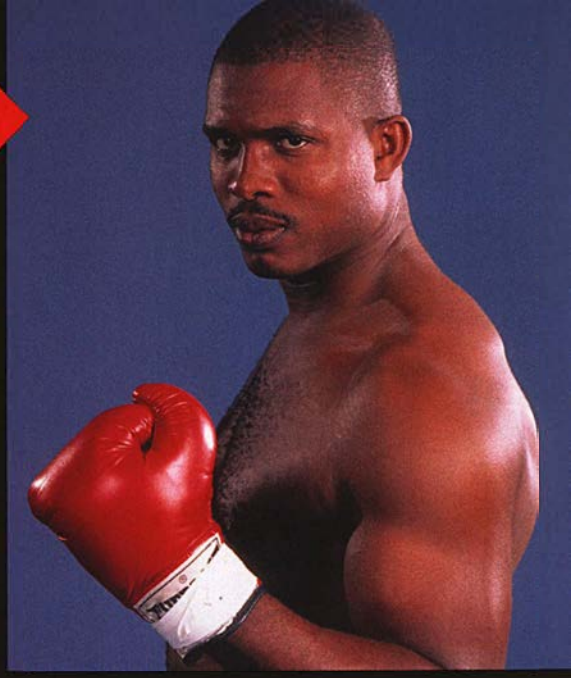
Russian born and Australian adopted, a single arrow-perfect right from Tszyu dropped Zab Judah to deliver the undisputed junior welterweight crown in 2001 (TKO 2). Tszyu could also threaten with his left, a hook or an uppercut to the head or body. His whole arsenal carried him through a war with Diosbelys Hurtado where both men were on the deck. Tszyu put Hurtado down in the first with a right to the head. He ended matters with a pair of knockdowns from lefts to the ribs (TKO 5). Tszyu's toughness was on display win or lose, with both of his defeats coming by late stoppage in arduous affairs with Vince Phillips and Ricky Hatton. They were the lucky ones. Sharmba Mitchell (TKO 7, TKO 3), Miguel Angel Gonzalez (TKO 10), Rafael Ruelas (TKO 9) and Jesse James Leija (TKO 6) couldn't endure the cost Tszyu exacted to defeat him. Tszyu was also one of the few men to drop Julio Cesar Chavez (TKO 6).

WALCOTT: KEYSTONE; TSZYU: THE RING MAGAZINE; MORRISON: BRAD MANGIN/SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

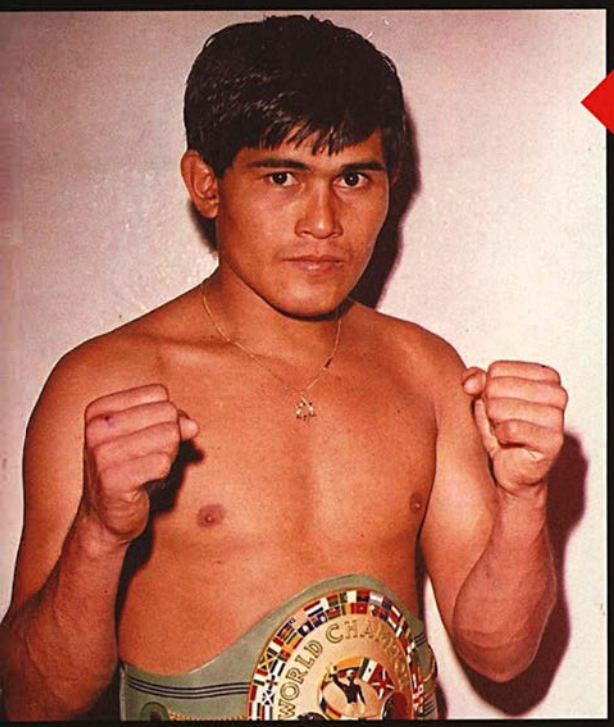
#75 TOMMY MORRISON
(48-3-1, 42 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1988-2008

The 1990s are widely regarded as one of the great decades in heavyweight history, in part because of a deep bench below names like Lewis, Holyfield and Tyson. "The Duke" was one of the stars of the next tier, a vicious left-hooker, co-star in Rocky V, with defensive liabilities that made every big fight a drama. Impressive first-round stoppages of veterans James Tillis and Pinklon Thomas built Morrison's early bona fides, while a knockout loss to Ray Mercer in 1991 established how unpredictable his career would be. Morrison's power was accompanied by a big heart, as evidenced in his wins versus Joe Hipp, Carl "The Truth" Williams and Donovan "Razor" Ruddock. Against Hipp, Morrison battled through a broken jaw to score a stoppage (TKO 9). Against Williams (TKO 8) and Ruddock (TKO 6), Morrison traded knockdowns before finding left-handed salvation. The Ruddock fight was particularly classic, with an injured Morrison landing a left to send "Razor" pirouetting to the canvas before stopping him later in the round.

#76 DONOVAN "RAZOR" RUDDOCK
(40-6-1, 30 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1982-2015



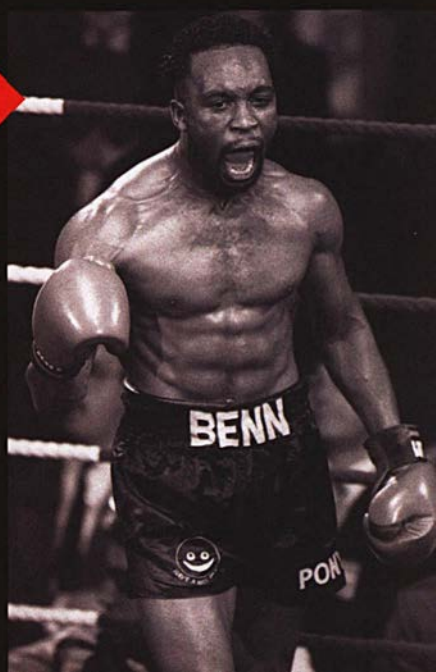
Fans of a certain age know it by name: The Smash. That was the nickname for the left hook/uppercut hybrid possessed by Canada's Ruddock – one of the most devastating punches of its time. Ruddock tried to be a boxer early in his career, with five of his 10 decision wins and the lone draw coming in his first 10 fights. After a loss to Dave Jaco, something clicked. Ruddock won 16 in a row, 14 by knockout, with eight of those inside two rounds. Former champion Michael Dokes experienced The Smash (TKO 4). A left had him out on his feet. Ruddock landed two more before Dokes hit the deck, and "Dynamite" was out for several minutes. It took Mike Tyson to stop the Ruddock train in a pair of 1991 sluggers' shootouts. After those losses, and losses to Lennox Lewis and Tommy Morrison, Ruddock racked up another run of knockouts with nine of 10 wins inside the route from 1998-2015.



#77 JOSE LUIS RAMIREZ
(102-9, 82 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1973-1990

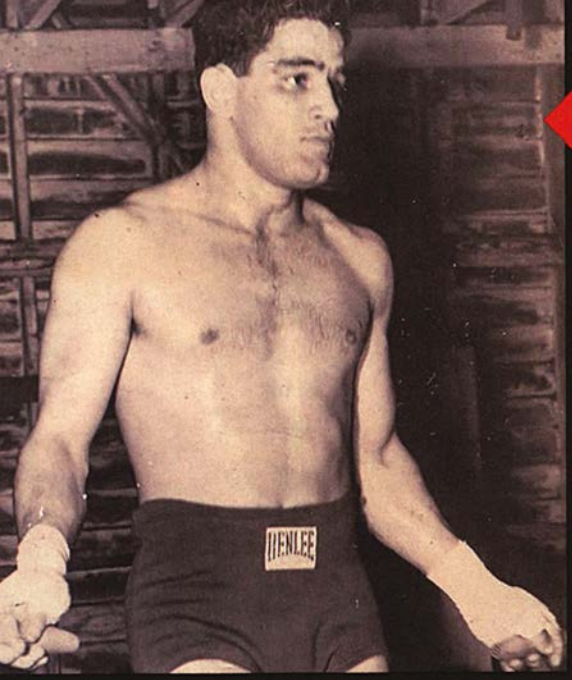
A two-time WBC lightweight titlist, Mexico's "El Zurdo" was a brick-fisted southpaw. He turned pro at 14 and was just 19 when Ruben Olivares handed him the lone knockout loss of his career in 1978. While Ramirez could be outhustled or outboxed, his power was enhanced by durability displayed against the best of his time. Ramirez announced his real arrival to the world in 1980, dropping the great Alexis Arguello with a nasty left cross before losing a controversial decision. In perhaps his finest hour, Ramirez overcame a tough first couple rounds to punch his way back in a rematch with undefeated Edwin Rosario. Rosario won a decision the first time and looked like he'd end things earlier the second. But Ramirez kept landing the left until the opening arrived to let loose with a two-handed assault, which he punctuated with a punch to the back of the head as a dazed Rosario ended up face-first on the turnbuckle (TKO 4). It was The Ring's 1984 Fight of the Year.

#78 NIGEL BENN
(42-5-1, 35 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1987-1996



Between the thrill-ride peaks of Matthew Saad Muhammad and Arturo Gatti, London's "Dark Destroyer" may have been the most exciting fighter on Earth. Benn did it with passport in hand. In 1990, he came to the U.S. to unseat WBO middleweight titleholder Doug DeWitt (TKO 8) and returned for a three-knockdown slashing of Iran "The Blade" Barkley (TKO 1). Benn hit every part of Barkley he could find, on and off the deck, in a memorable performance. He traveled to Italy to stop Mauro Galvano on a cut for the WBC super middleweight honors (TKO 3). Benn was the only man ever to stop tough contender Robbie Sims (KO 7), unraveling Sims with a whipping left before scoring two knockdowns to finish. Benn's power wasn't all he had; over time, he became a smarter boxer. But his fighting heart was his biggest asset. It was evidenced in surviving two knockdowns and hellish punishment to win inarguably the greatest super middleweight bout of them all, his tragic victory over Gerald McClellan (KO 10), who suffered severe brain damage as a result.

NOS. 61-80 BY CLIFF ROLD

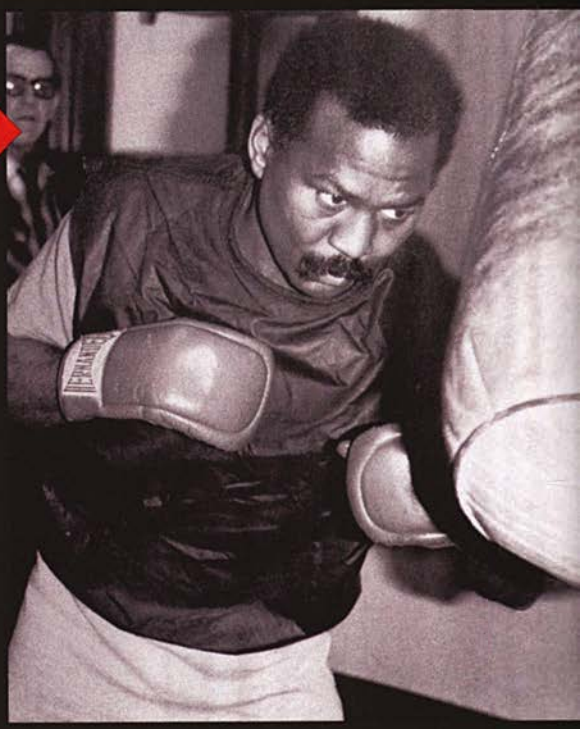


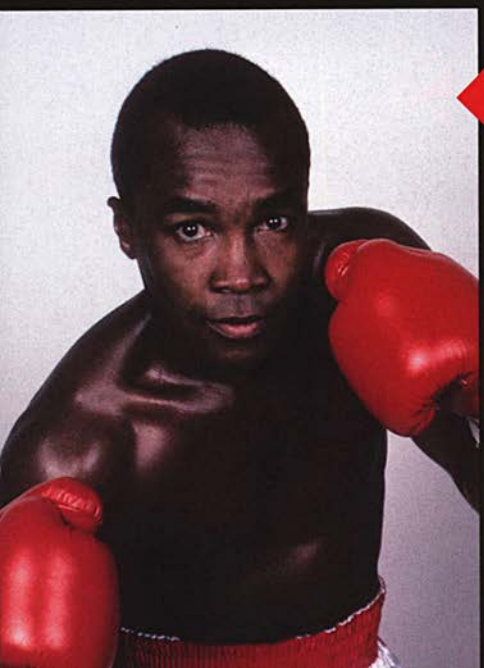
#79 TOMMY GOMEZ
(78-9-2, 67 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1939-1950

"Tampa" Tommy didn't always refer to the greatest quarterback of all time. During and after the World War II years, "Tampa" Tommy was a fearsome heavyweight with a huge right who liked to go home early. In 1943, his first-round knockout of durable Tony Musto raised eyebrows. Fighting with the scars and shrapnel of war still embedded in his later years, Gomez made a habit of knockout streaks. During six in a row from December 1945-June 1946, Gomez handed Freddie Schott his first knockout loss (KO 1) and blasted through a 110-pound advantage favoring Ben Moroz (TKO 6). While Gomez tended to falter against better opponents, including Jersey Joe Walcott, who blew Gomez away in three, there were always new knockout victims to rebuild against. Ten in a row followed consecutive losses to Walcott and Joe Matisi. Entering a final loss to Bob Satterfield, Gomez had won 12 straight with 10 knockouts, seven inside two rounds.

#80 JOSE NAPOLES
(81-7, 54 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1958-1975

A two-time welterweight king, Mexico adopted Cuba's "Mantequilla" as he dominated the best 140- and 147-pounders for a generation. Napoles did it with style and two-fisted power, his most damaging work coming via left hook. After a 1963 loss to Alfredo Urbina, Napoles went on a 39-1, 34-knockout streak with his lone loss on a cut. Billy Backus stopped him on cuts before another winning streak of 12 contests with eight knockouts. Napoles put Backus down multiple times for revenge to regain the crown. He also dropped Hall of Famer Eddie Perkins (UD 10), who was only stopped once as a pro, and finished the job against some of the best welterweights of his time, including Curtis Cokes for his first welterweight title and defense (TKO 13, TKO 10), Ernie Lopez (TKO 15, KO 7) and Adolph Pruitt (TKO 3, TKO 2). In his last fight, one more left hook had John Stracey on the floor in the first before Stracey and Father Time got the better of Napoles.





#81 SUGAR RAY LEONARD
(36-3-1, 25 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1977-1997

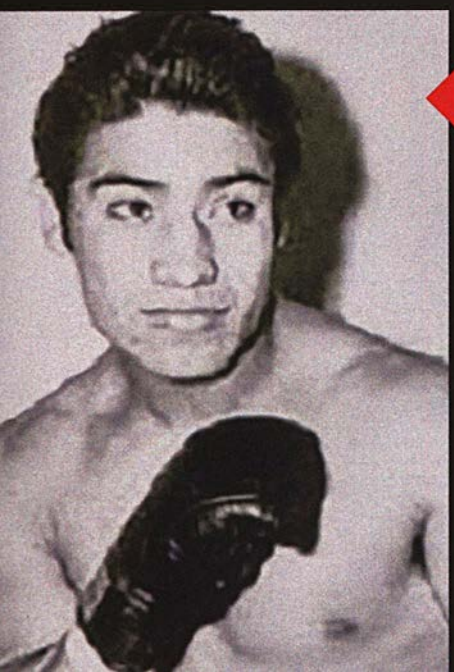
There's so much focus placed on Leonard's hand speed, ring savvy and superlative technique that his power is often overlooked. But consider this: "The Sugar Man" inflicted stoppage defeats on fellow Hall of Famers Wilfred Benitez (TKO 15) and Thomas Hearns (TKO 14). His left hook was a very quickly loaded and explosive punch, and the one he landed on British welterweight Dave "Boy" Green (KO 4), produced as chilling a knockout as you could ever imagine. Leonard carried his power to junior middleweight, stopping Ring champion and WBA titleholder Ayub Kalule in nine rounds. He also had enough pop to knock out the much larger Donny Lalonde (TKO 9) in a bout that saw him capture WBC super middleweight and light heavyweight titles. Yes, if you were unfortunate enough to mix it up with Leonard in his prime, you had a lot more to worry about than a rapier left jab and an Ali shuffle. One mistake, and you could find yourself staring up at the lights.

#82 GERVONTA DAVIS
(26-0, 24 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2013-PRESENT

Davis isn't accustomed to having opponents duke it out with him at ring center, and for good reason. "Tank" carries armor-piercing ammunition in both fists and has a 92.3 percent knockout ratio. The fight strategy is seek and destroy and, thus far, no one has been able to stop him. An aggressive lefty, Davis turned professional at featherweight and has stopped opponents all the way up to junior welterweight. He's still to face his biggest challenges, but the Baltimore native is one of the most exciting fighters in world boxing, and his popularity has established him as a Showtime pay-per-view attraction. Davis has captured authentic world titles at 130 pounds and secondary belts at 135 and 140. Notable knockout triumphs have come against Jose Pedraza (TKO 7), Mario Barrios (TKO 11) and – who can forget The Ring's Knockout of the Year for 2020? – Leo Santa Cruz (KO 6). What an uppercut!

#83 ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA
(30-2-4, 27 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1981-1991

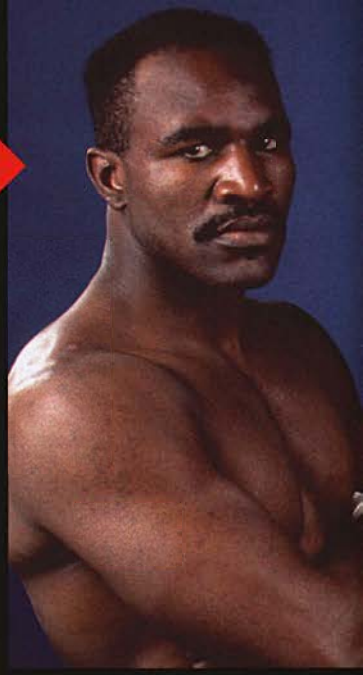
During the 1980s, a fighter had to be adequately prepared when they reached the world level. They had to be carefully nurtured from prospect to contender to champion. Unless, of course, that fighter was Venezuela's explosive hitter Antonio Esparragoza. The Moscow 1980 Olympian feasted on scores of novice pros during the embryonic stages of his professional rise. By the time he faced the highly respected Steve Cruz – who had wrenched the WBA featherweight title from Barry McGuigan nine months earlier – Esparragoza's only win of consequence, through 27 fights, was a third-round knockout of former world title challenger Johnny De La Rosa. Esparragoza was a significant underdog against Cruz, but he would emerge from the incumbent's backyard of Fort Worth, Texas, on a new plane. The relentless Venezuelan was ahead on points when two bone-crunching knockdowns forced the referee to stop the contest in the 12th round. Esparragoza made seven successful defenses, five of which came via the fast route.



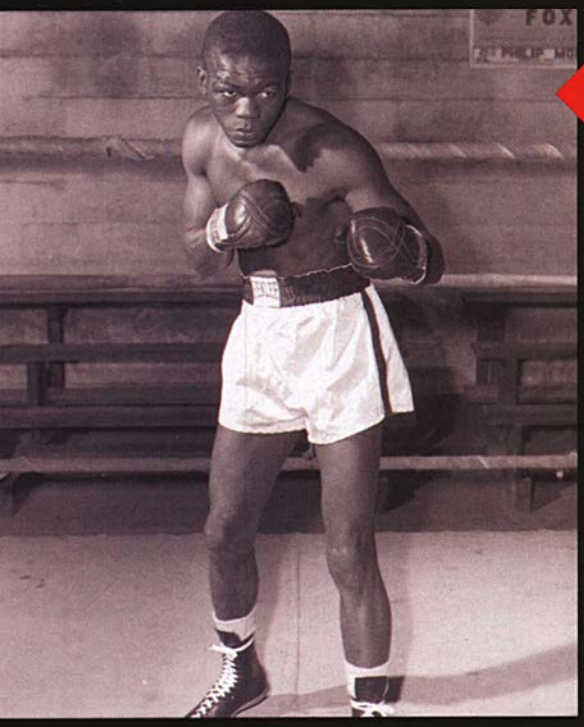
#84 RICARDO MORENO
(60-12-1, 59 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1954-1967

The numbers don't lie when it comes to this Mexican power-punching destroyer. Only one of Moreno's victims, Los Angeles-based featherweight Teddy Rand, who lost via DQ 5 in December 1961, holds the distinction of being anything other than a knockout statistic. Moreno, known as "Pajarito" ("Little Bird"), only contested one world title bout in his career – a third-round knockout loss to then-featherweight king Hogan Kid Bassey in April 1958 – but he was an exciting attraction in both his homeland and throughout boxing hotbeds along the West Coast of the United States. Of his 59 stoppage wins, 39 of them came in the first three rounds, and he adopted a kill-or-be-killed mentality throughout his career. Notable victories were scarce, but Moreno did post a thrilling triumph over Ike Chestnut (TKO 6), who was rated No. 5 by The Ring in the late '50s. The Bassey setback and a first-round knockout loss to the ill-fated Davey Moore eight months later ended Moreno's brief run as a world-level contender.

#85 EVANDER HOLYFIELD
(44-10-2, 29 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1984-2011



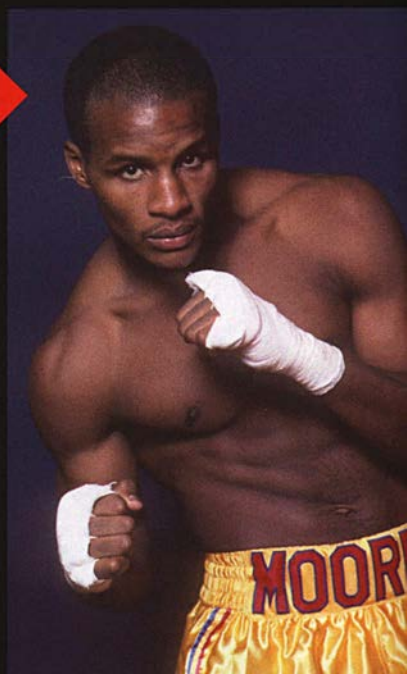
"The Real Deal" is synonymous with heavyweight glory, but he went 18-0 (14 KOs) en route to becoming boxing's first undisputed cruiserweight champ in 1988. Holyfield inflicted the first stoppage defeats on the records of Henry Tillman (TKO 7), fellow 190-pound titleholder Ricky Parkey (TKO 3) and Dwight Muhammad Qawi (KO 4). Boxing's holy warrior then spread his religion at heavyweight. He knocked out Mike Tyson-conqueror Buster Douglas (KO 3) with a single right-hand shot to become undisputed king in October 1990. And despite going 1-2 against the significantly larger Riddick Bowe in their epic trilogy, Holyfield was the first man to knock "Big Daddy" off his feet with a ridiculously short left hook in their third bout. He dropped the habitually bulletproof Ray Mercer (UD 10), stopped Michael Moorer (TKO 8) to avenge a previous points defeat, but his ultimate achievement was an 11th-round stoppage triumph over Tyson in November 1996. Holyfield fought on way too long, but he retired as boxing's only four-time heavyweight titleholder.



#86 IKE WILLIAMS
(126-24-4, 61 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1940-1955

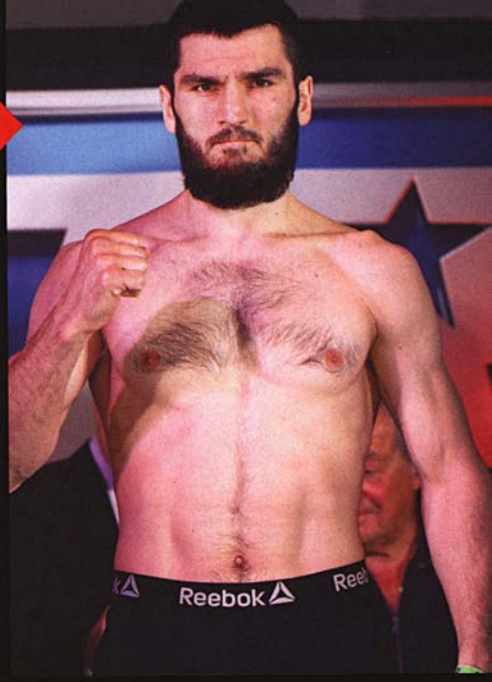
Williams was king of the lightweights for six years during a time when only eight men on the planet could claim to be a world champion. A pair of close decision wins over fellow Hall of Famer Sammy Angott (SD 10, SD 10) catapulted the Trenton, New Jersey, star to the elite level, and he continued to dazzle. Williams chewed up Mexico's Juan Zurita (TKO 2) in April 1945 to claim the National Boxing Association 135-pound title, and a revenge win over the legendary Bob Montgomery (TKO 6) in August 1947 brought him recognition as Ring Magazine champion. Other Hall of Fame triumphs came against Beau Jack (TKO 6, SD 10, TKO 8), Tippy Larkin (KO 4), Johnny Bratton (UD 10, PTS 10, TKO 8) and Kid Gavilan (UD 10). In May 1951, he was finally dethroned by Jimmy Carter (TKO 14) in what would be his final world title bout. A deadly right-hand puncher with a penchant for attacking the body, Williams was one of the greatest lightweight champions in boxing history.

#87 MICHAEL MOORER
(52-4-1, 40 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1988-2008



It's unfortunate that the technically proficient and heavy-handed Moorer is best remembered for being a knockout victim on the ledger of George Foreman. There was so much more to him than that. A native New Yorker who fought out of Detroit, Moorer turned professional as a light heavyweight and won the inaugural WBO 175-pound title after just nine months in the paid ranks. He made nine successful defenses and nobody came close to dethroning him. Impressed? Here's the clincher: Southpaw Moorer knocked out every light heavyweight he ever faced (21 of them between March 1988 and December 1990). There were no big names on the list, but Moorer's performance level and ferocity were the talk of boxing. Electing to move north in 1991, he bypassed cruiserweight in search of fortune and glory within the glamour division. Moorer enjoyed three title reigns at heavyweight. He outpointed Evander Holyfield (MD 12) in a career-defining win. And he carried enough pop to score stoppages over Alex Stewart (TKO 4), Bert Cooper (TKO 5), Frans Botha (TKO 12) and Vassiliy Jirov (TKO 9).

#88 ARTUR BETERBIEV
(17-0, 17 KOs) • ACTIVE: 2013-PRESENT

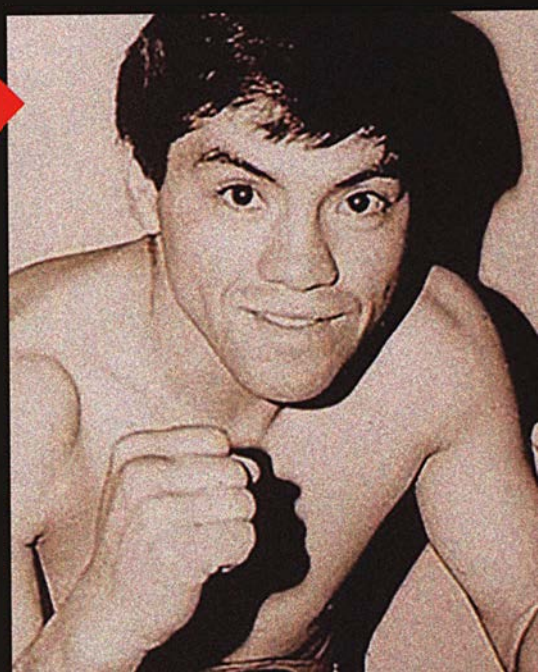


The 37-year-old Beterbiev is arguably the hardest-hitting world champion in the sport today. The Canadian-based Russian was a decorated amateur who medaled at two world championships and represented his home country at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Beterbiev adapted seamlessly to the professional game as a light heavyweight and has annihilated all before him. In just his sixth outing, the fearsome Russian knocked out former titleholder Tavoris Cloud (KO 2) and, in fight No. 12, picked up the vacant IBF title at the expense of durable German Enrico Koelling (KO 12). A fan favorite for his marauding and bone-breaking style, Beterbiev has made five successful defenses against Callum Johnson (KO 4), Radivoje Kalajdzic (KO 5), Oleksandr Gvozdyk (TKO 10), Adam Deines (TKO 10) and Marcus Browne (KO 9). The Gvozdyk triumph secured Beterbiev the WBC title and recognition as the best 175-pounder in the world. His biggest moments likely lay ahead of him, and he would be a serious challenge for pound-for-pound superstar Canelo Alvarez.

#89 RICARDO LOPEZ
(51-0-1, 38 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1985-2001

A near-perfect technician with a near-perfect record, diminutive Mexican great Ricardo Lopez was criminally overlooked for much of his career simply because he campaigned in the sport's lowest weight class. However, if you were fortunate enough to see this Hall of Famer in his prime, you were blessed. Lopez's incredible defensive prowess violated the notion of what is expected from a Mexican fighter, but his combination punching and power were every bit as lauded. "Finito" wrenched the WBC strawweight title from Hideyuki Ohashi (TKO 5) in 1990 and never looked back. Often appearing on the undercard of more popular attractions, the Mexico City star made an incredible 20 successful defenses, 16 of those coming by knockout. In his 21st defense, Lopez was floored for the first time in his life by unbeaten Nicaraguan Rosendo Alvarez. That bout ended in a seventh-round technical draw after Lopez picked up a severe cut from a clash of heads. Lopez won the rematch on a split decision and immediately moved up in weight. He claimed the IBF junior flyweight title from Will Grigsby (UD 12) and knocked out two more challengers before announcing his retirement.

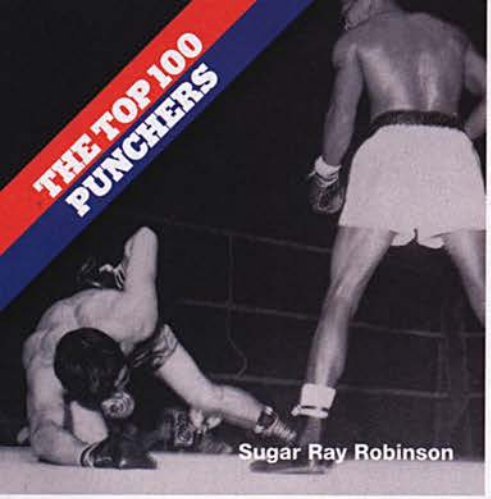
#90 HUMBERTO GONZALEZ
(43-3, 30 KOs) • ACTIVE: 1984-1995



"Chiquita" Gonzalez won his first 24 fights, 20 by knockout, before outpointing Yul Woo Lee (UD 12) for the WBC junior flyweight title. This powerful Mexican fireplug halted four of five challengers before being shockingly knocked out himself by unheralded Filipino Rolando Pascua (KO 6). But his greatest moments were yet to come. After regaining the crown from Pascua conqueror Melchor Cob Castro (UD 12) , Chiquita entered a red-hot rivalry with talented IBF counterpart Michael Carbajal. Gonzalez would come out 2-1 up in their trilogy, avenging a seventh-round knockout defeat with a pair of close points wins to emerge as the unified champion. Both Gonzalez and Carbajal were inducted into the Hall of Fame together in 2006. Incredibly strong for a 108-pounder, Gonzalez was an aggressive and relentless pressure fighter who switched effortlessly from his natural orthodox stance to southpaw and took opponents out with either hand.

NOS. 81-100 BY TOM GRAY

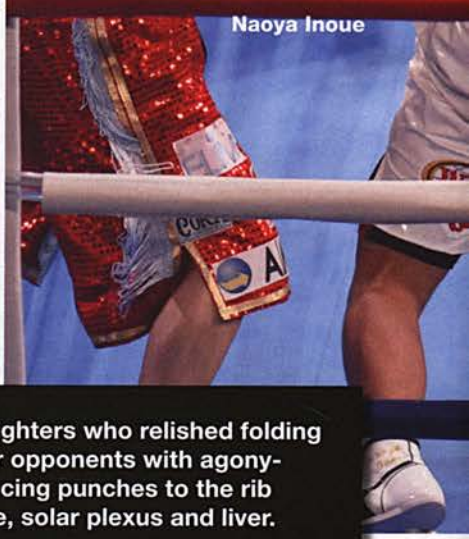
LOPEZ: AL BELLO


Sugar Ray Robinson

Gennadiy Golovkin

Rocky Marciano

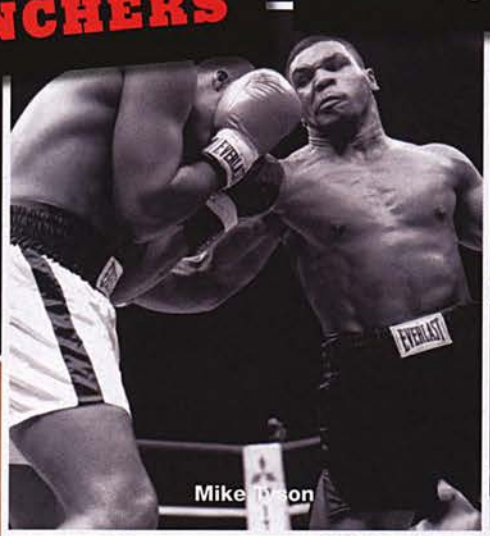
Julio Cesar Chavez

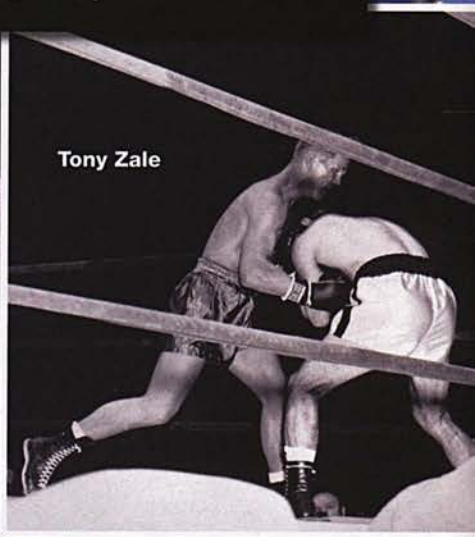

Naoya Inoue

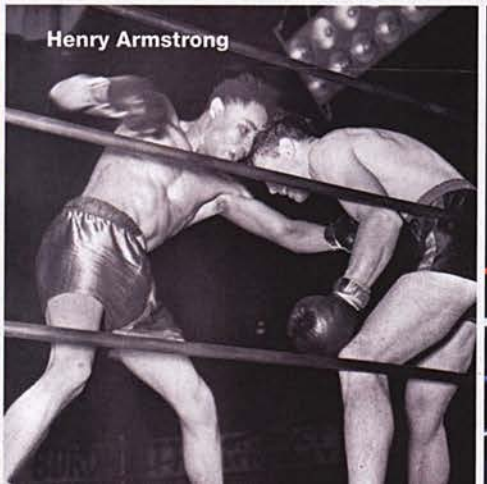
BEST BODY-PUNCHERS

Ten fighters who relished folding their opponents with agony-inducing punches to the rib cage, solar plexus and liver.

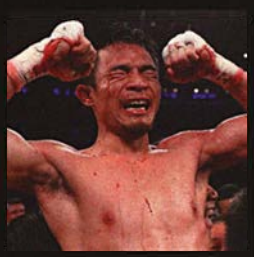
Micky Ward


Mike Tyson


Tony Zale


Henry Armstrong

Mike McCallum



#91
SRISAKET SOR RUNGVISAI
(50-5-1, 43 KOs) • Active: 2009-present

The former two-time junior bantamweight champion from Thailand has produced major upsets with his hyper-aggressive and power-punching southpaw style. He broke free of the pack by becoming the first man to defeat Roman Gonzalez (MD 12, KO 4) and also claimed a win over Mexican technician Juan Francisco Estrada (MD 12).

#92
MIGUEL COTTO
(41-6, 33 KOs) • Active: 2001-2017

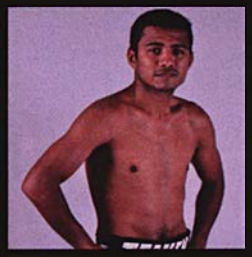
Cotto was a four-weight world ruler and, during his time, the pride of Puerto Rico. He was a smooth boxer-puncher who carried his power from junior welterweight to middleweight, scoring notable stoppage wins over Kelson Pinto (TKO 6), Ricardo Torres (KO 7), Zab Judah (TKO 11), Ricardo Mayorga (TKO 12) and Sergio Martinez (TKO 10).

#93
BOBBY CHACON
(59-7-1, 47 KOs) • Active: 1972-1988

The super-popular California brawler claimed world titles at featherweight and junior lightweight during a bloodbath career. He scored an array of epic wins over the likes of Chucho Castillo (TKO 10), Danny Lopez (TKO 9), Ruben Olivares (UD 10), Rafael Limon (SD 10, UD 15), Cornelius Boza Edwards (UD 12) and Art Frias (TKO 7).

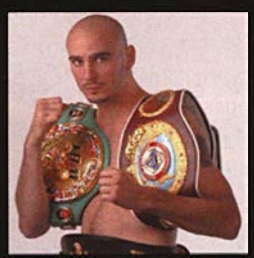
#94
MIKE MCCALLUM
(49-5-1, 36 KOs) • Active: 1981-1997

McCallum was a technically brilliant boxer from Jamaica who also had the ability to turn out the lights. "The Body Snatcher" claimed world titles at junior middleweight, middleweight and light heavyweight. He engaged in epic battles with James Toney and Sumbu Kalambay and scored stoppage wins over Julian Jackson (TKO 2), Milton McCrory (TKO 10) and Donald Curry (KO 5).



#95
ROMAN GONZALEZ
(51-3, 41 KOs) • Active: 2005-present

The complete fighter, "Chocolatito" has annexed world titles in four weight classes. A professional for 17 years, the Nicaraguan legend remains a pound-for-pound entrant and holds quality wins over Juan Francisco Estrada (UD 12), Akira Yaegashi (TKO 9), Brian Viloria (TKO 9), Carlos Cuadras (UD 12), Kal Yafai (TKO 9) and Julio Cesar Martinez (UD 12).



#96
KELLY PAVLIK
(40-2, 34 KOs) • Active: 2000-2012

Pavlik had made a reputation for himself long before he won the unified middleweight title from Jermain Taylor. The Youngstown, Ohio, native was a feared and authentic knockout artist who frequently made local referees administer the 10-count during his rise. He was especially impressive against Bronco McKart (TKO 6), Edison Miranda (TKO 7) and Taylor (TKO 7, UD 12).

#97
ANTHONY JOSHUA
(24-2, 22 KOs) • Active: 2013-present

A 2012 Olympic champ, Joshua developed into a serious puncher with both fists. The super-popular Brit is a two-time unified heavyweight titleholder and holds notable triumphs over Wladimir Klitschko (TKO 11), Carlos Takam, (TKO 10), Joseph Parker (UD 12), Alexander Povetkin (TKO 7), Andy Ruiz (UD 12) and Kubrat Pulev (KO 9).

#98
RAFAEL MARQUEZ
(41-9, 37 KOs) • Active: 1995-2013

Less appreciated than older brother Juan Manuel Marquez, but a terrific fighter and a ferocious hitter. A longtime bantamweight champ, Marquez also reigned at junior featherweight, where he took part in an epic four-fight series with Israel Vazquez. His standout victories came against Mark Johnson (SD 10, TKO 8), Tim Austin (TKO 8) and Vazquez (TKO 7, KO 3).

#99
EDER JOFRE
(72-2-4, 50 KOs) • Active: 1957-1976

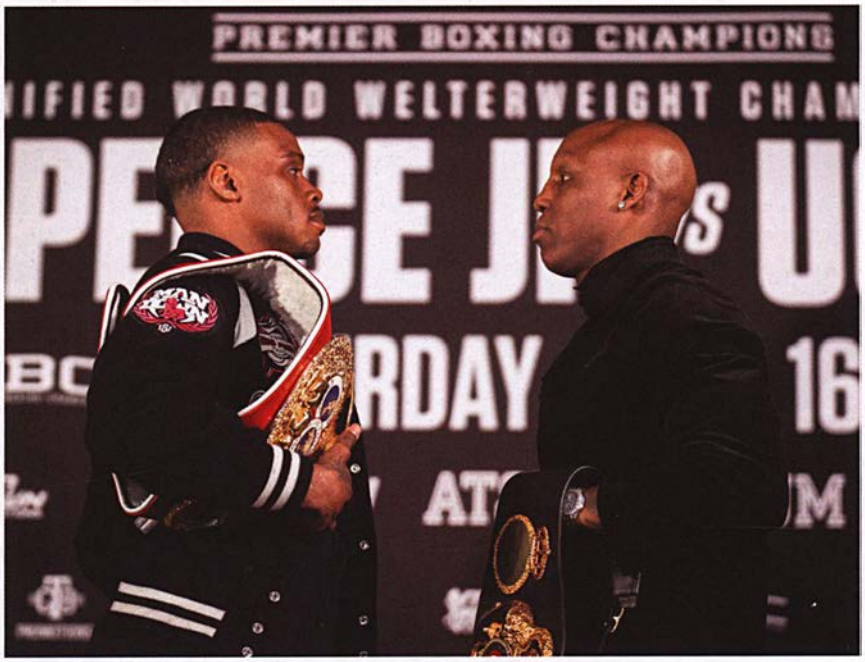
Naming him Brazil's greatest-ever fighter doesn't do him justice. Jofre is arguably the greatest bantamweight champion of all time and a former featherweight titleholder. The legendary Sao Paulo native scored career-defining wins over Johnny Caldwell (TKO 10), Herman Marques (TKO 10), Jose Legra (MD 15) and Vicente Saldivar (KO 4).

#100
JUAN MANUEL LOPEZ
(36-6-1, 32 KOs) • Active: 2005-2019

Lopez was a top amateur who represented his native Puerto Rico at the 2004 Olympics. However, while enjoying brief stints as a junior featherweight and featherweight world titleholder, JuanMa developed into a kill-or-be-killed warrior. Must-see TV wins came against Daniel Ponce De Leon (TKO 1, TKO 2), Gerry Penalosa (TKO 9), Bernabe Concepcion (TKO 2) and Rafael Marquez (TKO 8).

NOS. 81-100 BY TOM GRAY

COMING UP



Three welterweight titles will be at stake in the intriguing unification showdown between Errol Spence Jr. (left) and Yordenis Ugas.

APRIL

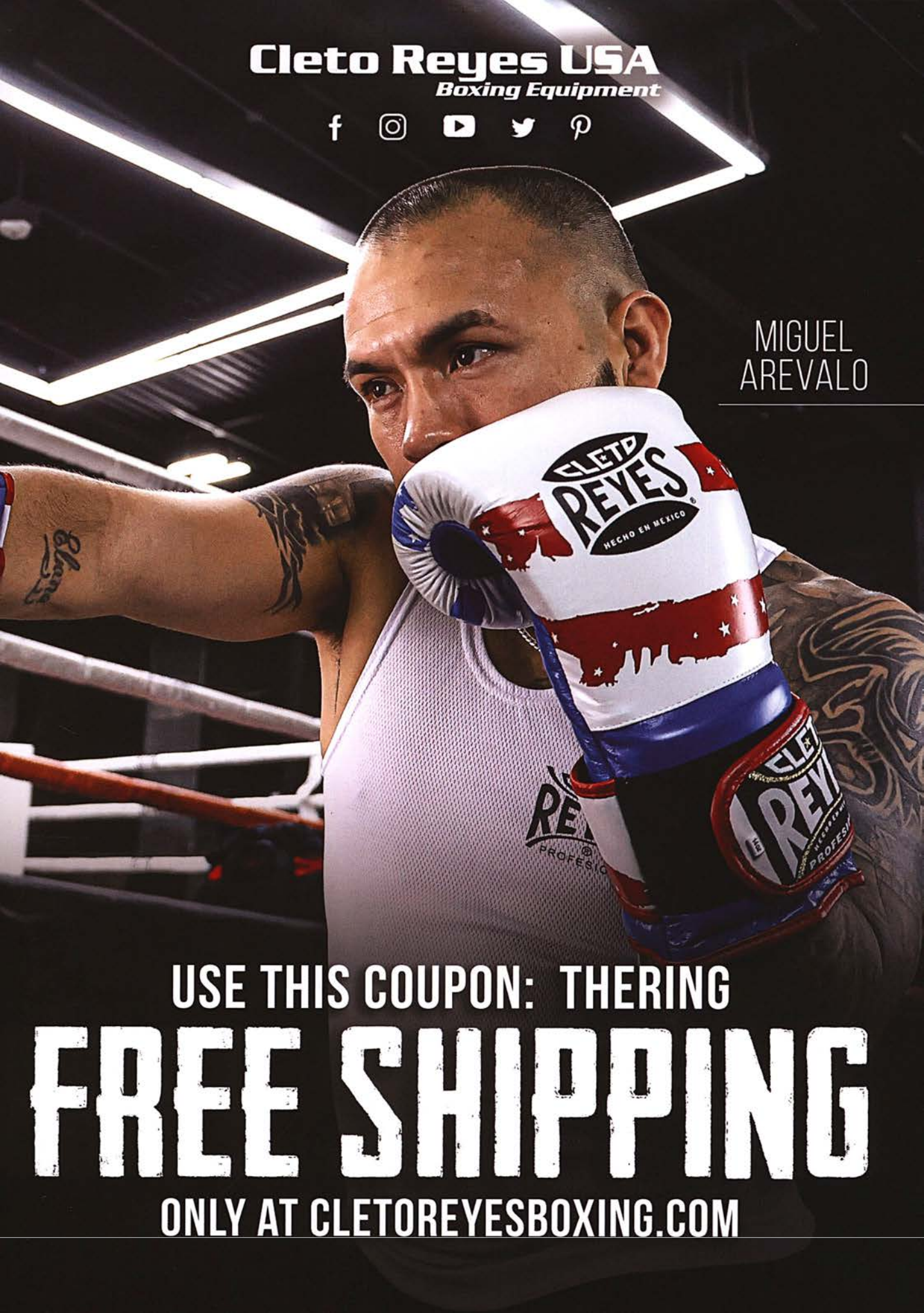
APRIL 16 – Errol Spence Jr. vs. Yordenis Ugas, welterweights (for Spence's IBF/WBC and Ugas' WBA titles), Arlington, Texas (Showtime PPV).
APRIL 16 – Conor Benn vs. Chris van Heerden, welterweights, Manchester, England (DAZN).
APRIL 23 – Tyson Fury vs. Dillian Whyte, heavyweights (for Fury's Ring/WBC titles), London (PPV).
APRIL 30 – Katie Taylor vs. Amanda Serrano, lightweights (for Taylor's Ring/IBF/WBA/WBC/WBO titles), New York City (DAZN). Also, Franchon Crews-Dezurn vs. Elin Cederroos, super middleweights (for vacant Ring, Crews-Dezurn's WBC/WBO and Cederroos' IBF/WBA titles); Jessie Vargas vs. Liam Smith, junior middleweights.
APRIL 30 – Shakur Stevenson vs. Oscar Valdez, junior lightweights (for Stevenson's WBO and Valdez's WBC titles), Las Vegas (ESPN/ESPN+).

MAY

MAY 7 – Dmitry Bivol vs. Canelo Alvarez, light heavyweights (for Bivol's WBA title), Las Vegas (DAZN).
MAY 14 – Jermell Charlo vs. Brian Castano, junior middleweights (for Charlo's Ring/IBF/WBA/WBC and Castano's WBO titles), Los Angeles (Showtime).
MAY 21 – David Benavidez vs. David Lemieux, super middleweights, Glendale, Arizona (Showtime).
MAY 21 – Zach Parker vs. Demetrius Andrade, super middleweights, Derby, England.
MAY 28 – Gervonta Davis vs. Rolando Romero, lightweights, Brooklyn, New York (Showtime PPV).

JUNE

JUNE 4 – Stephen Fulton vs. Daniel Roman, junior featherweights (for Fulton's WBC/WBO titles), Minneapolis (Showtime).
JUNE 18 – Jermall Charlo vs. Maciej Sulecki, middleweights (for Charlo's WBC title), Houston (Showtime).


Cleto Reyes USA
Boxing Equipment
MIGUEL
AREVALO
CLETO
REYES
HECHO EN MEXICO
USE THIS COUPON: THERING
FREE SHIPPING
ONLY AT CLETOREYESBOXING.COM

WWW.KOTICKETS.COM

Established 1999

LAS VEGAS OFFICE:
(800)283-8699

JIM BOONE CELL:
(702)591-1638

KO TICKETS

Proudly giving access to the best seats in Boxing and Entertainment. Since 1999.

@KOTickets

Painting by SloneArt.com